



Ulster braced for new year missile blitz

RUC chief warns of IRA terror onslaught

By David Sapsted

The IRA is ready to mount an unparalleled bombing blitz in the new year with the possibility of surface-to-air missiles being used against Army helicopters for the first time, the RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, said yesterday.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office confirmed last night that the Government was taking the warning "very seriously indeed" and put Ulster on alert for a ferocious terrorist onslaught.

Pointing to the setbacks suffered by the IRA Provisionals during 1987 - including the revulsion at the Enniskillen bombing and the

French seizure of 150 tonnes of IRA arms, including Sam 7 missiles, from the coaster Eksund in November - Sir John said that the terrorists were now "grasping at straws".

He added: "But it makes them all the more dangerous because they have little to lose from enhancing violence. It is not their intention to have one wild burst. I believe they are planning carefully and it will be their endeavour to very greatly raise the level of violence, death and destruction."

In addition to 20 Sam 7 missiles found on board the Eksund, French detectives discovered rocket launchers, heavy mortars, machine-guns, rifles, pistols and explosives in the ship's hold.

The arms were believed to have originated in Libya and the ship itself was wired with plastic explosives.

Fears of a sustained new year campaign by the IRA stem partly from intelligence reports gathered by the Garda that the Eksund was not the only boat carrying such a huge consignment of arms to the IRA during 1987.

Sir John said that he "would not be surprised" at the accuracy of intelligence reports emanating from the Republic and adding that, despite the seizure of the Eksund, the



Sir John Hermon at yesterday's press conference

Provisionals had succeeded in smuggling in surface-to-air missiles.

They also possessed newly acquired supplies of heavy machine-guns and other weapons which must be found, he added.

"There will be a return to car bombings and the vicious use of the most deadly equipment. I do assure you that this is their intent in the not too distant future."

"Do not underestimate the vicious, evil intent of the subversive organizations, not least the IRA and their cohorts in the Provisional Sinn Féin."

Sir John specifically called a press conference in Belfast yesterday to issue his warning.

though he admitted he did not know the exact timing of the IRA blitz.

The Northern Ireland Office, however, pointed out that the IRA had heralded 1986 with the murder of two policemen in Armagh just minutes after midnight and said that the terrorists had "an acute sense of timing".

The Chief Constable disclosed that he had met Mr Eamon Doherty, the new Commissioner of the Garda, on five occasions in the past six weeks and said that he was satisfied with the increasing cross-border co-operation between the two forces.

He felt that the IRA's manpower resources were not as good as they had been. "They are relying on diehards, because they cannot trust younger people becoming involved," he said.

Sir John also predicted that Ulster's para-militaries were ready to see their own people murdered. "I am satisfied that they will even orchestrate the murder of their own (men) by other para-militaries or subversives if it suits their purpose to remove people who are an embarrassment or who are not conforming," he said.

He refused to elaborate, but security chiefs in Belfast are convinced that the notorious UVF gunman, Louis Murphy, the so-called "Shankill Butcher", was set up for IRA assassination by his own men.

Sir John said that the defeat of terrorism was still the security forces' number one priority. Public support for the shootings and killings was fading because the terrorists were destroying the very fabric of society, he added.

The Provisionals were concentrating more and more on trying to provoke confrontation on the streets of Northern Ireland, he said.

"But this they will not achieve because of the stability of this community."

Even so, Northern Ireland would not enjoy the reputation it had in the 1960s as one of the most crime-free areas in Europe "until every vestige of paramilitarism and racketeering is removed from this society".

He said he would only express his view on whether the legal "loyalist" organization, the Ulster Defence Association, should be proscribed "privately, to the executive authority".

But he added that he considered there were many sinister aspects to the UDA and said the banned Ulster Freedom Fighters, the name under which UDA murders are committed - was an integral part of the organization.

Dealers fear heavy fall in dollar will continue

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Dealers are expecting a sharp fall in the dollar when foreign exchange markets get back to normal on Monday after the long Christmas and New Year break. There was a renewed collapse in the currency yesterday.

Since Christmas Eve the dollar has crashed 6 cents against the pound, ending the year at 1.8850. It has fallen nearly 6 yen against the Japanese currency to end the year at an all-time low of 121.05.

These dramatic falls have taken place despite heavy

intervention by the world's central banks, which may have spent more than \$3 billion in an attempt to prop up the dollar.

Yesterday's fall was triggered by heavy selling overnight in Tokyo. The decline continued in London despite intervention by the German and Swiss central banks. It fell 2.5 cents against the pound, closing in London at \$1.8850.

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In-flight fight as right to puff goes up in smoke

From Charles Bremner
New York

Passengers fought with crew over a smoking ban on a flight to Los Angeles in one of the worst incidents in a year that has seen near civil war between America's over-stretched airlines and long-suffering passengers.

Police, responding to a radio call from the captain, boarded TWA's Flight 853 when it landed at Los Angeles from Boston on Wednesday night, and slapped handcuffs on four passengers who had instigated the in-flight fracas.

TWA and the police said the trouble began when a passenger lit a cigarette as the aircraft was nearing the end of its six-hour non-stop flight. The airline had declared before take-off

that no smoking would be allowed under a law which must be invoked when there are more non-smoking passengers than non-smoking seats.

Other passengers deprived of their nicotine joined in pushing and shoving stewards who tried to stop the delinquent smoker. "The captain came back and saw the situation was bad so he radioed ahead to the police," a TWA spokesman said.

The incident boded ill for airlines because of a California law, that comes into effect today, banning smoking on all aircraft, trains and buses.

Most airlines are fighting the ban, saying they will observe only a new federal law which forbids smoking on flights of less than two hours.

Passengers have spent much of the year fulminating against airlines over services that would often put even Aeroflot to shame.

The worst passenger riot took place at Miami airport in the autumn. A dozen people were arrested for disturbing the peace when Eastern Airlines kept them waiting for hours and then cancelled their flight.

In another incident, passengers came to the aid of a fellow-traveller who was arrested on similar charges after his stroller had sat for hours on the tarmac at a hot Mid-Western airport.

The airlines - which have suffered three big disasters, and numerous near-misses - have been mounting apologetic advertising campaigns

promising to pull up their socks or saying they have already done so.

The Federal Aviation Administration has meanwhile started publishing a monthly league table of delays and lost baggage that takes in all the big carriers.

It is not just the passengers who have been getting arrested. On Tuesday, an airline pilot was dragged away in handcuffs after he refused to remove his belt to walk through a metal detector.

The FAA introduced security checks for flight crews this week after a former airline employee boarded a California airliner with a gun, murdered the crew, and caused it to crash. Forty-six people were killed.

States reshape law, page 5

Thorneycroft: We were right 30 years ago



Lord Thorneycroft relaxing at his home in Kent yesterday. (Photograph: Paul Anson)

Health service 'hotel charges' on '57 agenda

By David Walker

A generation before Mrs Thatcher, a leading Conservative politician was advancing arguments in Cabinet about health service finance, the welfare state and the use of private sector finance for public projects in remarkably Thatcherite tones.

According to Cabinet papers which the Public Record Office will make available for the first time on Monday, Mr Peter Thorneycroft, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Harold Macmillan's administration, anticipated in 1957 many of today's political themes.

Mr Thorneycroft, elevated to the peerage in 1967 and chairman of the Conservative Party from 1975-81, argued for:

- "Hotel charges" for patients in National Health Service hospitals;
- A radical review of welfare state funding; "In the longer term the financing of the welfare state on its present basis would prove a heavier liability than the economy could sustain";
- Tight controls over local government expenditure;
- The flotation on the American stock market of equity shares in British nuclear power stations to raise capital to finance the expansion of the country's electricity generation programme.

Mr Thorneycroft, later to resign from Macmillan's Government along with Mr Enoch Powell after failing to get his policies for expenditure restraint accepted, was a prophet of monetarism. To control inflation, he said in a note dated July 1957, there

had to be "recourse to such measures as direct control over the monetary system".

In another note he said: "For many years we have had the sorry spectacle of a government which spends too much, drifts into inflation, then seeks to cure the situation by fiscal and budgetary measures."

"In turn, these lead to flagging production, taxes are reduced and demand stimulated; but we shrink from the measures necessary to cut expenditure decisively and inflation starts again. There is only one way out of this unhappy circle and that is to cut expenditure and not to increase taxation."

However, Mr Thorneycroft appears to have lost most of the battles during 1957. In-

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Windscale censorship
Wales censorship
Union law move
Photographs

stead of cuts in NHS spending, the Cabinet elected to consider establishing a new tax base, on which to finance health.

It looked hard at dividing National Insurance in two and establishing a separate payment by employees - or stamp as it was then called - to be used to pay for the NHS.

On the control of inflation, Macmillan preferred some mechanism to control wage increases rather than squeezing the money supply (al-

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Events that marked monetarism's birth

By P. R. Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Lord Thorneycroft yesterday described the events of 1957, when he sought ways to stem the unrelenting growth of public expenditure, as "the beginning of monetarism".

The man who the following year was to resign as Chancellor of the Exchequer, along with Mr Enoch Powell and Mr Nigel Birch, two other Treasury ministers, in protest at the spending policies of Mr Harold Macmillan, the Prime Minister, said: "I thought then that we were right and nothing that has happened since has altered my view."

Lord Thorneycroft, aged 78, agreed that could be seen as a "Thatcherite before my time" and said: "Looking back on it we were much further ahead of the general thinking than

perhaps we realized at the time."

"It was not just Macmillan. The general idea that this country could spend its way out of its difficulties persisted. It persisted so long that it was pursued by the Heath Government and Tony Barber, his Chancellor."

"During our time it was the accepted wisdom of the day, but Enoch, Nigel and I departed from that view."

Lord Thorneycroft recalled an occasion when he was called in by Macmillan "when things were deteriorating fairly fast" and told the Prime Minister that there was too much money about.

He remembered Macmillan

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40 years on and James is top name

By Richard Sachs

James and Elizabeth were once again the most popular names announced in The Times birth columns in 1987. The number of births recorded, 5,477, was the highest since 1972.

The fashion in names changes slowly among Times parents - James and Elizabeth have held first place for 24 and 12 consecutive years respectively - but the trends, however slight, have been well documented.

It was 40 years ago, in January, 1948 - when Attlee was Prime Minister, the civil war in Greece was at its peak and Hugh Dalton had just announced that the bacon ration would be restored to 2oz a week - that Mr J. W. Leaver, then of Ealing, London W5, posted the first of 27 annual letters to the editor

Continued on page 4, col 5

Police horses at Trafalgar Square

By Sam Kiley

Mounted police were put on standby for the first time in Trafalgar Square last night, ready to control tens of thousands of revellers who gathered to cheer in the New Year.

Police checkpoints at all entrances to the square con-

fiscated alcohol and aerosol cans and turned away inebriated people.

The heavy security was an attempt to avoid the tragedy of New Year's Eve in 1982, when two people were crushed to death in the drunken press.

Police advised people going to the celebrations to leave all valuables at home and appealed to motorists to use the free late Underground and bus services.

All emergency personnel were given instructions to "deter and disperse" anyone whose behaviour was likely to spoil the enjoyment of others.

Westminster Hospital was put on special alert and the London Ambulance Service set up a special mobile unit to monitor injuries at Trafalgar Square.

However, most first aid was administered by St John Ambulance teams.



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changed its name to The
Times Page 9

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Scargill accused of 'dinosaur' tack

Mr John Walsh, the only candidate opposing Mr Arthur Scargill for the presidency of the National Union of Mineworkers, has accused his rival of keeping miners in the "Dinosaur Age".

In a bitter new year message for mineworkers, Mr Walsh said: "The policies of the past six years have been about as effective as a bow and arrow against a herd of elephants. My opponent's policies simply call for more of the same outdated notions."

Mr Walsh said mineworkers faced their greatest challenge during 1988 — a revolution in technology.

"British Coal is under instructions from the Government to break even in the next financial year at all costs and yet the policies we are stuck with at the moment are fit for the Dinosaur Age."

He said members missed their chance in 1981 (when Mr Scargill was first elected president of the NUM).

Ironworks Livelier era ends chess

The Downia ironworks at Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, closed yesterday after 227 years, with the loss of 140 jobs.

A century ago the works employed 12,000 men, making Merthyr the iron and steel making capital of the world. It shipped iron to every continent and almost every railway journey in the British Empire was made on rails from Downia.

British Steel says new equipment at Llanwern and Rotherham has cut demand for ingots, and that production at Motherwell, Scotland, is more economical.

Players took a more aggressive attitude in the third round of the Foreign and Colonial Hastings Grandmaster Chess Tournament yesterday when decisive results were achieved in two matches to end a string of eight draws.

Bent Larsen of Denmark had Murray Chandler of England in check mate after a swift concentration of forces, and Joel Benjamin, the United States champion, beat Nigel Davies, the English international master. The match between John Nunn and Jon Speelman was drawn.

Police release tape

Detectives investigating the stabbing of an Irishman in Brighton earlier this week have released a tape recording of a man who reported finding the body, but failed to give his own correct name.

The tape was played by a local radio station in an appeal for more information.

Mr Brendan Kelly, aged 43, was found dead on Brighton beach, with a stab wound in his stomach. The murder weapon has not yet been found. Police will visit Belfast next week to interview his relatives.

Golfer hit 122mph

The golfer Ian Woosnam was banned from driving for six months and fined £200 yesterday for driving at 122 mph in his Porsche on the M6.

West Bromwich Magistrates' Court, West Midlands, was told that Woosnam, aged 29, was returning to his home in Oswestry, Shropshire, after the British Ryder Cup golf team's victory in the United States.

Woosnam, who earned more than £1 million from golf last year, was anxious to get home after hearing that his son Daniel, aged two, was ill.

Hungerford protest

A Hungerford massacre widow has accused police of "stalling" over complaints she has lodged against them.

Mrs Maryline Vardy claims police caused the death of her husband, Eric, by allegedly directing him into the path of Michael Ryan.

Thames Valley Police said yesterday: "The complaints board investigation is still in progress. They have not forgotten about the case." A decision is expected soon.

Another massacre widow, Mrs Elizabeth Playle, has also lodged a complaint about the police operation.

Bodleian seeks funds

Britain's oldest public library, the Bodleian at Oxford University, is looking for someone to run a £10 million fund-raising operation to be launched this year.

Mr David Vaisey, the librarian, said yesterday that the money was urgently needed to improve buildings and to conserve its five million books and manuscripts, some of which are hundreds of years old.

Boeing stymied as dollar crisis hits plane sales

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Frustrated officials of the Boeing company in America are unable to take advantage of the problems facing the European Airbus consortium because of a lack of aircraft for sale.

The decline in the value of the dollar has given Boeing a big potential advantage over Airbus. The company would like to exploit the problems now facing Airbus by offering cut price aircraft at prices which would be both attractive to airlines and still make a healthy profit for Boeing, the world's biggest aircraft manufacturer.

But a shortage of "white tails" — aircraft built on spec in the hope of finding a buyer — has means Boeing is unable to guarantee delivery of all its most popular jets until well into the 1990s.

In the meantime the company is watching closely to ensure that Airbus Industrie, a consortium of British, French, West German and Spanish manufacturers, is not "bailed out" of the dollar crisis by more government grants.

Boeing and the other main American aircraft company, McDonnell Douglas, have long argued that Airbus has been able to offer airlines attractive contracts only because they have been subsidized.

They have taken the matter up with their own Government which is trying to force Airbus to raise its prices and

The Government is facing an embarrassing internal clash over plans to increase the number of night flights at Gatwick airport.

Several influential MPs, led by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, are determined to bring further concessions from Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, who is proposing to allow a 20 per cent increase in the number of night flights over the next five years provided they are made by medium hauler jets.

His proposals have already been attacked by the airlines which believe they do not go far enough. They argue that that more flights

must be allowed at night so that maximum benefit is obtained from investment.

Local environmental pressure groups have mounted a fierce lobbying campaign among their MPs and are confident that they have the backing of a sufficiently powerful group in the Conservative party to force a further cut in the number of night flights allowed.

The Government has asked for comments on its proposals so that the new rules can be operating by the summer.

Britannia Airways, which is Britain's second biggest airline, said Mr Channon's present proposals satisfy no one.

However, the collapse in the dollar has forced each of the partners to face the problem head on and big changes in the way Airbus is funded are imminent.

British Aerospace, which has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie and makes

the wings for the aircraft, is

worried that the losses it has already incurred on sales of Airbus jets because of a low pricing policy will be made worse by the decline in the dollar. To make matters worse, the more the company sells the bigger the losses.

Little can be done about the many aircraft already on order by the world's airlines — all priced in dollars — which will be paid for on delivery over the next year or two. But a large price increase is almost certain for future orders.

If the dollar remains at its present low level, this is the moment that Boeing and McDonnell Douglas will seek to exploit by pressing hard for world-wide sales in their own aircraft in the hope of squeezing Airbus out of the market.

Labour peer wants bigger contingent in the Lords

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, is urging Mrs Margaret Thatcher to announce a list of "working" peers early next year.

His aim is to establish a regular system of creating life peers young enough to pursue an active career in the House of Lords.

He believes that the announcement of a new batch of working peers once a year, possibly in March or September, will add to the influence and effectiveness of the upper House.

The success of his campaign may depend on whether Lord Whitelaw returns this month to continue as leader of the Lords. The two have a close relationship, which works to the advantage of the whole of the House of Lords, dating back to when they both entered the Commons in the 1950s.

A "working list" was published last February, giving the former Labour cabinet minister a batch of peers in their forties and fifties, such as Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, to fill places on his front bench.

It had the advantage of bringing experts from outside Westminster into Parliament.

His case is also strengthened by the imbalance in the dissolution honours list announced last July, after the general election, to reward retiring ministers.

The Opposition parties fired badly because Mrs Thatcher sent 11 former Conservative Cabinet Ministers to the Lords but Labour gained only six and the Alliance two. No political peers appeared in the New Year's honours list.

Lord Cledwyn has the added burden of a heavy burden of controversial Bills and the advanced age of his stalwarts, many of whom are in their sixties and seventies and could now expect an easier life.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, for example, the former Lord Chancellor, shrugged off his 78

Move to limit sales of catapult

By Ian Smith

Efforts will be made through Parliament to restrict supplies of a potentially lethal catapult on sale to children.

Tests at Sheffield University's department of civil and structural engineering have shown that ball bearings fired from the catapult can dent steel.

Consumer protection officials at Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council will ask members next week to seek the support of both South Yorkshire police and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to prevent anyone under the age of 16 being able to buy the Diable, manufactured by Barnst International in Wolverhampton.

The Diable, which sells for £9.30, has a pistol grip and special wrist lock. Stabilisers and sights are optional extras. It is designed for hunting rats and other vermin.

Mr Richard Bramley, principal officer of the Barnsley authority's consumer and environmental services department, said he was appalled by the university report.

"The legislation introduced by the Government to restrict the sale of crossbows should be used to keep dangerous catapults out of the hands of children", he said. "Something must be done to prevent a re-run of this year."

No-one from the company was available for comment last night.



Mr Richard Bramley showing the catapult that can dent steel. He is seeking a ban on sales of the weapon to children aged under 16 (Photograph: Asa/Newsline).

Nationality calls overwhelm bureau

Hundreds of Irish citizens living in Birmingham yesterday made last-minute calls for information on their rights to British nationality before the deadline of midnight last night.

An estimated 60,000 Irish citizens live in Birmingham and the city's Irish centre and welfare bureau were inundated with telephone calls.

Under the British Nationality Act, 1981, citizens of Commonwealth countries resident in the UK before, and since, January 1, 1973, qualify for British citizenship provided they registered before the deadline.

The Irish centre said: "We have taken hundreds of calls and if we multiplied our staff by 100 we would still have had difficulty dealing with them."

Reforms bewilder Civil Servants

By Ronald Fawc

Reorganisation within the Department of Trade and Industry, ordered by Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State, and being introduced next week, has left senior Civil Servants angry and bewildered.

The reforms change the links between government and industry, through which divisions of the DTI sponsor particular sectors of industry, providing them with a direct line to Whitehall. In future, liaison between the two sides will be less specific and cover only broad market areas.

Many Civil Servants believe the changes will spell the end for the specialist monitoring and strong personal contact now provided by the DTI. When Lord Young took

over the department in June he called for suggestions on how the system could be improved. When he was told that major changes were not desirable, he launched his own study without consulting his senior managers in the department.

Morale in the department is reported to have plunged.

"It seems that the objective is deliberately to cut the contact the DTI has developed with particular industries and people are not impressed by the automatic way the changes are being introduced." The First Division Association, representing senior Civil Service officers, said yesterday that no complaint had been made to them about the reforms.

Fire chiefs get power of closure

By Sam Kiley

Fire brigades and local authorities gain new powers today to restrict or ban the use of premises where there are serious fire hazards. The powers come under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act, 1987.

The Act is a result of the first big review of fire regulations which came in the wake of the fire at Bradford City Football Club in May 1985, when 56 people were killed and more than 200 injured.

Safety inspectors, previously governed by the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, had to get a magistrate's order to restrict or prohibit the use of a venue. That, according to the Home Office, could take up to a month. The new legislation enables inspectors to shut premises immediately.

Bradford City and the now defunct West Yorkshire County Council Fire Department were severely criticised last February by Sir Joseph Cantley, the deputy High Court judge, who found the club and the council were responsible for the fire — the worst in British football history.

It started among rubbish that had collected beneath the stadium since the early sixties.

Local authorities will now have to ensure that inspections are carried out at least once a year at football, rugby and cricket grounds with a seating capacity of more than 10,000.

Unions back call for lower party fees

By Roland Rudd

New Labour Party recruits may be offered cut-price membership under a pilot scheme aimed at persuading Mr Neil Kinnock that such a policy adopted nationwide would vastly boost the size of the party.

Trade unions intend to use reduced fees to encourage unionists who pay the political levy to join the party.

The pilot scheme is being put forward to counter the leadership's reluctance to introduce lower membership fees while the party has a deficit.

Eleven constituencies would take part in stimulating the drive to create a mass membership based on most of the 5,500,000 unionists who pay the political levy.

Downing Street is to review the embargo system under which newspapers are given advance copies of government publications.

The Government is concerned about what were seen as further breaches in yesterday's newspapers of the embargo on the New Year Honours list.

The *Sun*, which provoked the fury of Downing Street for revealing 24 hours early that two Zeppelin heroes were to be awarded the George Medal, promised yesterday that there would be no repetition.

But government sources said that some reports in yesterday's papers could only have been compiled as a result of approaches before the embargo time to people associated with the awards.

Labour membership drive

Mr Kinnock supports a cut rate membership fee in principle, although he is understood to be concerned that not all unionists paying the political levy would want to join.

Other party members fear the cost of setting up such a scheme could result in an overall loss of income for the first two years.

However Mr Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, has admitted that the increase in the cost of membership to £10.60 had been a mistake.

He has conceded that if the party is to ensure that a large number of levy-paying unionists become full members it will need "a relatively low subscription".

The proposal is contained in a confidential paper sent to the party's organization com-

mittee chaired by Mr Eddie Haigh, assistant secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

He said yesterday: "The present membership leaves a lot to be desired, compared to all the major socialist countries in Western Europe."

The hard left has made it clear it will resist the move which it fears could cost it control of Labour seats. A large influx of unionists would significantly alter the character of many constituencies.

The plan is gaining ground in both wings of the Labour movement. Mr Gordon Brown, who first proposed cut rate membership, said it was vital to win support for a mass membership party.

That support had been given by Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the TGWU and chairman of Trade Unionists For Labour (TULF), which co-ordinates the funds of affiliated unions.

Under one of the proposals being floated, the campaign would be paid for by TULF.

Mr Brown said: "If this new plan is implemented it will be the first step towards a Labour Party with a million members. A mass party is now clearly within our grasp in 1988."

Police in hospitals inquiry

By Kerry Gill

The fraud squad has been called in to investigate allegations about the running of Glasgow's Central Supply Service.

The service provides hospital operating theatres with equipment in the Glasgow area and is spread over several of the city's hospitals.

In November, the senior consultant in charge of the service, Dr Cameron Wynne, and three other members of staff were suspended after the Greater Glasgow Health Board's chief of internal audit produced a report on the service.

Yesterday the Procurator Fiscal in Glasgow confirmed that officers from Strathclyde Police were carrying out inquiries into a "considerable number of allegations" made by the health board.

The board passed the report by the chief of internal audit to the Procurator Fiscal last month. The investigation is also believed to involve a local company which supplies equipment to hospitals.

The three other members of staff to be suspended include a nursing sister and an engineer.

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Staff crisis hinders Customs in hunt for drug smugglers

By Tony Dawe

A shortage of senior staff is hampering Customs and Excise in its campaigns against drug runners and tax cheats.

The service is so stretched that it is trying to cash in on the popularity of the BBC television series, *The Durrells*, to attract new staff and is even considering appointing school leavers to its investigation department.

The crisis follows the resignation of more than a thousand staff last year, the highest number ever, and is most acute in London and the South-east.

The latest figures show a high number of vacancies for senior staff in many London offices which collect value-added tax.

The West End office needs another 27 higher executive officers (equivalent in rank to a police inspector but less well paid). Westminster needs 26, Alport (west London) 24, Stratford (east London) 22, and the City 21.

The lack of staff will dent the customs' hopes of recovering some of the £1.5 billion of VAT which officials estimate went uncollected last year.

The service is also short of drugs investigators and senior officers are certain that the campaign against importers is suffering. One senior investi-

gator said: "This job is all about experience. You cannot rely on luck to catch the drug-runners yet newcomers are being thrown in at the deep end and some do not even have the ability to talk to passengers."

A Customs and Excise spokesman confirmed yesterday that the service was suffering from a shortfall of staff. "We are mounting a

A £400,000 cash hoard seized by police in a drugs raid called "Operation Pillowtalk" was given to charity yesterday.

West Mercia Police Authority said a "sizeable sum" would be going to a police retirement home in Shropshire. About 250 other charities will also benefit by between £100 and £10,000.

The money was found when officers raided Midlands homes in 1985 and found cannabis worth £4 million.

recruitment drive for executive officers, who are on the lower rung of the management ladder. It has been concentrated in the South-east where 70 per cent of last year's resignations occurred.

"We are inviting recruits to come and join the duty men" and their aptitude and qualifications will determine where they work. The investigation department is being boosted and posting people straight to

it is an option which might be taken up."

Mr Michael King, of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said: "The customs problem is not uncommon among government departments. It cannot persuade people to come to London because of the cost of housing."

"The Treasury refused to listen to our demands for higher London weighting during our last pay negotiations but it will have to listen in 1988 because of this problem."

The crisis comes after unions and management had persuaded the Government to increase recruitment.

The Treasury announced recently that an extra 531 staff would be employed in the next financial year with the priorities of "the prevention of drug smuggling and the collection of VAT".

Mr Douglas Hurd is visiting two North African countries next week as part of British attempts to curb international drug trafficking and to build up international co-operation on areas such as the prevention of terrorism.

The Home Secretary leaves for Tunisia and Morocco on Sunday for a week of talks with interior ministers. Areas of discussion will also include organized crime. North Africa is a major source of cannabis for Europe, often smuggled across the Mediterranean.

Inquiry into cannabis claim

By Craig Seton

An £8,000 council grant may have been earmarked to buy a cannabis plantation in Kenya, it was claimed yesterday.

Treasury officials in Birmingham yesterday launched an investigation into the Ethiopian World Federation, some of whose members were among 11 people jailed in the city last week for their part in a cannabis smuggling ring.

Mr Bernard Zissman, a Birmingham Conservative councillor, said the organization had received £8,000 from the council last year and a further £10,000 grant had been approved for 1988.

He called on the Labour-controlled council to withhold the grant until after an investigation.

He said: "It seems the city council was hoodwinked into giving this money and that is outrageous. I would have thought it is a legitimate organization, but we have to find out if it was used as a front for a drugs racket."

Birmingham Crown Court was told last week that Rastafarian members of the Ethiopian World Federation raised funds to try to smuggle cannabis into England.

Minutes of a meeting of the federation referred to a plan to buy a cannabis plantation.

The prosecution alleged that delegates sent to Kenya mailed packages containing cannabis back to addresses in Birmingham. They were seized by customs officials.

The organization is believed to have received council backing under its policy of helping ethnic groups. Mr Bernard Farrar, Birmingham city treasurer, said: "We are reviewing the grant situation regarding this organization and we are carrying out an investigation."

Prince Henry rides the old year out



The Princess of Wales taking Prince Henry, aged three, for a ride on Smokey, his black Shetland pony, yesterday at Sandringham, where the Royal Family had gathered for the new year. The Princess Royal took Prince William, aged five, and her children, Zara and Peter, for a longer ride over farm fields. Later, the two princesses were expected to join the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, Prince Edward, and Captain Mark Phillips to toast the new year in champagne. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Mother to visit 'sold' brides

Mrs Miriam Ali, the mother of the two women allegedly sold as brides in North Yemen, flew to Sanaa yesterday, determined to bring her daughters back to Britain.

The daughters, Zana Mubsen, aged 22, and Nadia, aged 21, claim they were tricked into arranged marriages seven years ago by their father and have been treated as "sex slaves" since. Nadia has two children, one aged 21 months and another aged four years, while Zana has a son aged 20 months.

Boarding her flight at Heathrow Airport, Mrs Ali said: "I'm hopeful that I'll be able to bring them home. I'm not coming back without them. I'm meeting Yemeni officials in Sanaa on Saturday, and I will take it from there."

Post Office 'up to scratch'

By Ian Smith

Post Office boasts about super efficiency have attracted business from an unlikely minority group. Fleas, the insects which traditionally hitch lifts on unsuspecting humans or animals, will now travel by Royal Mail.

However, there is one minor drawback to reaching their destination on time. Any of the country's 60 varieties wishing to avail themselves of first class mail have to sacrifice their lives first.

Only then will postmen deliver their remains to Doncaster Museum where the tiny, but tenacious freeloaders will gain posthumous recognition in ecological history.

Mr Colin Howes, the museum's environmental records officer, is collecting the species to augment the museum's collection of 20 Yorkshire-bred fleas and also

hopes to contribute to a nationwide survey.

Researchers in the biological records centre at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology are hoping to compile an atlas of Britain's fleas. A leading flea expert, Mr Robert George, of Bournemouth, Dorset, has received offers of help from the Doncaster Museum.

Now householders are being asked carefully to comb their pets' coats, rummage through birds' nests and even inspect their spouse's bodies.

Gamekeepers too are being asked to co-operate. Rabbits are notorious flea carriers so when the animals are shot, hunters are requested to pop off their ears and pop them in the post.

"It sounds funny but there is a serious side to our public appeal", Mr Howes said. "Most people instinctively

squash any suspect insect they see crawling around the living room or lurking in their pet's fur. We want them to carefully scoop up the flea, attach it to a piece of cellophane on a card carrying the date and location of their find and post the envelope to us."

Mr Howes said: "If the idea grabs public interest then we should be inundated with all sorts of fascinating specimens which will make both our researchers and Post Office accounts very happy."

There is, however, a sting in the tail. The Post Office will allow four-millimetre insects to travel through the post, but will not allow delivery of sections of rabbit.

A spokesman at the regional sorting office headquarters in Leeds said: "It is all very well posting dead fleas attached to bits of cellophane, but we draw the line at rabbits' ears."

Care order pair seek legal aid

The Tameside couple whose stillborn son would have been taken into care immediately, may seek an order forcing the local authority to release confidential files about the case.

Mr and Mrs Philip Rayner confirmed yesterday that they are seeking legal aid to take Tameside council in Greater Manchester to the High Court. They want to see the file which persuaded social workers that an immediate care order for their son was necessary.

"We are determined not to let this matter drop", Mr Rayner, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, said. "One of our prime concerns is that any child my wife has in future is likely to be immediately taken into care. We want to know why."

Burglars tell their secrets

A big dog is still the greatest deterrent to a would-be burglar, according to a survey of 60 Irish burglars.

The men, serving jail sentences in Cork and Dublin, were questioned by psychologists from University College in Cork about their crimes.

Professor Maxwell Taylor, who carried out the survey, says that burglars come in three types - planners, opportunists and searchers.

The planner watches his target, then pounces. The opportunist acts on impulse and strikes whenever he comes across a likely target. The searcher hunts for middle-class areas.

Most of the burglars saw prison as an occupational hazard, or as a good place to make contacts and learn the trade.

Professor Taylor found that consideration of the victim was virtually non-existent, and that alarms provided no real difficulties for the burglars.

The survey showed that 68 per cent of them preferred to go home after a burglary, while 32 per cent went out and celebrated.

The three-year study is soon to be published in the United Kingdom by the Howard League, the penal reform organization.

King's Cross disaster

Tube fire record attacked

A new criticism of the London Underground's fire safety record is made today in a journal circulated in the fire protection industry.

The strongly-worded editorial in this month's issue of *Fire* accuses London Regional Transport of ignoring the rights of Tube passengers.

The journal praises the "bravery and courage" of the firemen who tackled the King's Cross blaze in November which killed 31, including a fireman.

It says emergency services had taken stock of the risk of a big fire on the Underground before the disaster.

But the journal asks whether

or LRT was prepared for such an event.

"Although that is a matter for the official inquiry to decide, the fire record of the London Underground in recent years is, in our opinion, less than the travelling public have a right to expect."

The journal says allegations of bad housekeeping on Tube stations had been rife and points out that a London Fire Brigade report warned LRT six months before the King's Cross fire of hazards there and at other stations.

A survey of London Underground fires by Mr Hugh Reading, a sociologist, had shown that between February 1976 and December 1985

there were 10 serious fires on the Underground, resulting in 24 trains being trapped in affected areas and 2,000 people suffering from smoke inhalation.

The journal also draws attention to a 1984 report from the London Passenger Transport Research Group which said LRT had been "extremely fortunate" that no lives had been lost in Underground fires.

LRT said steps had already been taken to deal with matters raised in a critical London Fire Brigade report. It would be wrong to make any comment relating to the King's Cross disaster as the official inquiry had started, it added.

Region faces acute nurse shortage

By Pearce Wright

The second largest regional health authority will lose more than 40 per cent of its nurses in the next decade if the decline in its staff continues, according to a report which proposes a complete overhaul of recruitment, education and training.

The report, *Strategy for the Education of Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors*, prepared for the North East Thames Health Authority, says the pattern of student nurse recruitment must move away from a reliance on women aged between 18 and 19 with five or more GCE O

levels, if shortages are not to get worse.

It emphasizes the "need to attract more mature female candidates, men and those of a wider academic background". The investigation shows the average working life of a qualified nurse is 11 years.

Miss Jean Bailey, one of the authority's regional nurses, said the report "shows a need to attract back nurses who left to have families or for other reasons, and to look at training patterns to attract new people in their mid-thirties".

The region, which stretches from Westminster to South-

end and covers much of Essex, is 3,000 short of the 21,500 nurses it needs. The shortfall is made up by agency and casual nurses.

The report estimates that unless there is an increase in the level of recruitment, the deficit will rise to about 8,500 by 1996.

On the recent government proposals to employ Youth Training Scheme candidates in nursing, Miss Bailey said: "YTS may be a possible entry route."

"We have to be much more broadminded in considering how we target suitable candidates."

Fungi of the gods, ripe for the eating

Mushrooms are the pick of the week's vegetables, particularly the cup and flat ones. In ancient times, mushrooms were regarded as food for the gods and even credited with magical powers.

They cost between 35p and 65p a half lb according to size, are good raw or cooked, and make an excellent addition to savoury dishes.

Home-grown vegetables, thanks to the continuing mild weather, are generally in excellent condition.

Cauliflowers, which were very expensive just before Christmas, are down in price now to between 70p and 85p each. Carrots (for vitamin A) are 14p to 24p a lb. Parsnips, 15p to 35p a lb; swedes, 16p to 18p; and potatoes, 14p to 15p a lb.

Green vegetables in good supply include English Celery, January King and Savoy cab-

bages, all between 20p and 30p a lb. Brussel sprouts, at 25p to 40p a lb, are also plentiful, but as cold weather suits them best, they may be a bit loose.

Celery from Spain, Italy and Israel costs 40p to 60p a head and the opinion of a buyer for a large supermarket is that the Spanish ones have the best flavour.

The other good salad buys are Chinese leaves, at 65p to 90p a head, and tomatoes, 60p to 80p a lb. Iceberg lettuce, although expensive at 80p to £1.20 a head, is worth buying for its crispness and flavour.

Also available are cucumbers, 45p to 70p each; salad cress, only 12p to 15p a carton, and watercress, 30p to 40p a bunch, or pre-packed.

All the usual winter fruit is widely available, but tropical pineapples must be the best post-Christmas buy. Yesterday at a street market they

were selling for as little as 50p for a large one. Sainsbury's have superb pineapples for 45p each. They are said to aid digestion after a heavy meal as they contain a special enzyme which helps break down fats in the body.

Grapes are plentiful too. Napoleon (pink rather than black) cost just 65p a lb, while white Italians are £1.85 a lb.

Although fishermen are enjoying a well-earned rest until after the New Year, fish counters are still well-stocked, though, admittedly, most of the fish is frozen.

However, trout is plentiful and fresh from the farm, and has the added attraction of being quick to cook and easy to digest.

Smoked fish are in good supply, ranging from the humble bloaters at about £1.15 a lb and mackerel at £1.20 a lb, to

superb smoked salmon, at about £13 a lb.

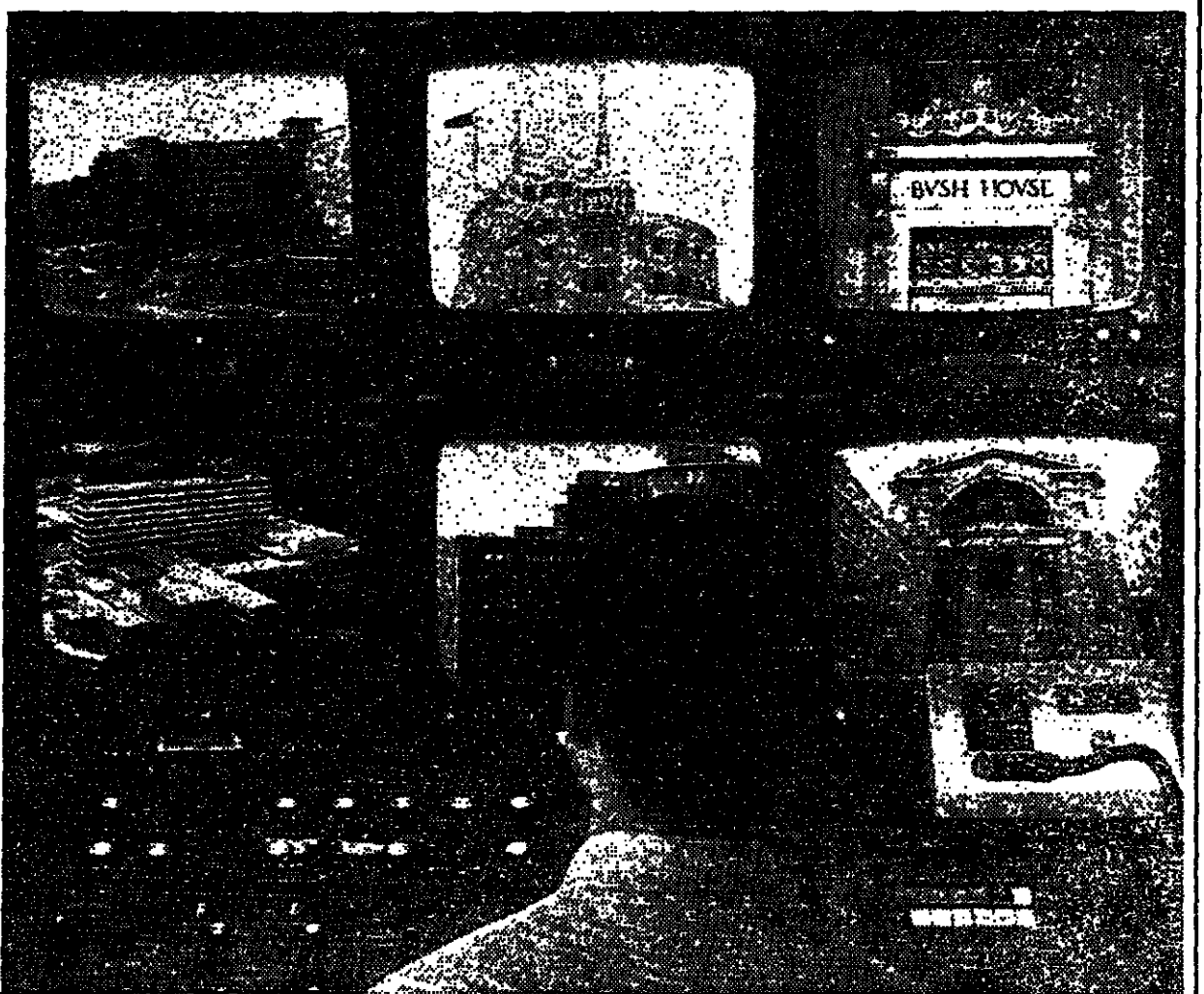
The best quiche in the world is surely smoked mackerel in a cheesy pastry.

Looking at the meat and poultry counters in shops, it is hard to believe Christmas is over as there still seems to be plenty of turkey, chicken, game and fresh meat to tempt us.

The most attractive offer yesterday was Sainsbury's new season milk-fed lamb, available only at the Cromwell Road branch, London SW7. Whole leg costs £2.58 a lb, fillet end, £2.66, and whole shoulder, £1.68 a lb.

Special offers this week are Sainsbury's braising steak, down 24p to £1.58 a lb; Bejam's turkey breast rolls weighing 2.5lb, for £3.98; top-side and silverside of beef at £2.09 a lb; and Sainsbury's fresh beef mince at 89p a lb.

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A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE BBC

Macmillan ordered censorship of Windscale report

By David Walker

Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister when the Windscale plutonium plant caught fire in 1957, personally censored an inquiry report, on the grounds that it would jeopardize efforts to persuade the Americans to share their nuclear secrets with Britain.

Government records for the year, now open at the Public Record Office, show Mr Macmillan concerned that a critical report might hinder diplomatic moves towards what a secret briefing paper that year called a "common research and development programme with the Americans".

The paper was prepared before the summit meeting in Washington with President Eisenhower that took place just after the incident at Windscale, Cumbria, in which large amounts of radioactive material were released into the atmosphere.

It acknowledged that under the Macmillan plan "we should become dependent on the United States for some of the most important of our future weapons". This was "no more than a recognition of the fact that our national security is already dependent on the United States".

After the incident at Windscale, the Atomic Energy Authority commissioned a report from Sir William Penney, the director of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston. When he produced it, the Prime Minister was advised by Sir Frederick Brundrett, the chief scientist at the Ministry of Defence, that there were "no security objections" to releasing its conclusions in full.

The Atomic Energy Authority discussed publication even though the report criticized Windscale management and inferred that the accident could have been much worse, but after discussion with Sir Edwin Plowden, its chairman, and Sir Norman Brook, the Cabinet Secretary, Mr Macmillan insisted that only a summary should be published.

According to an Atomic Energy Authority minute, "even if it had been considered that there was no security objection to the publication of so much technical detail, there

would still remain the danger that it would be quoted out of context and misused in other ways by hostile critics.

"In particular, it would provide ammunition to those in the United States who would in any case oppose the necessary amendments of the McMahon Act [the 1954 law forbidding the American government sharing nuclear information with other countries] which the United States authorities intended to propose in order to make possible the desired degree of collaboration."

When the White Paper on the incident, published by the Government in November that year, is compared with the original Penney report, it

The Government received a Medical Research Council report in spring 1957 that showed more conclusively than ever before that smoking tobacco was a cause of lung cancer. Mr R.A. Butler, the Home Secretary, ordered that a draft statement in response to the report should be amended because it "implied a rather more positive endorsement of the fact that our national security is already dependent on the United States".

The Cabinet did not even want to admit it had a duty to warn the public of the connection between smoking and cancer.

It is clear that Mr Macmillan's cuts were few and covered up few technical details. Subsequent reports on the medical aspects of the incident and on reorganizing the Atomic Energy Authority were published in full.

Relations with the United States and nuclear power emerge as twin themes from the Cabinet and other papers now released. Alongside Mr Macmillan's attempt to cultivate his good relations with President Eisenhower (expressed in two summits that year, one in Bermuda as well as the Washington meeting), and his attempts to repair the damage to Anglo-American

relations caused by the invasion of Egypt by British forces in 1956, went national pride in Britain's scientific capacity and a reluctance to be subordinated to American technology.

Repairing the damage caused by Suez preoccupied the Cabinet, both practically in terms of finding a place for the several thousand British citizens displaced from Egypt and philosophically in terms of what the episode meant for British power in the world.

The Attorney General left the Cabinet in no doubt that the invasion had been completely outside the terms of the 1888 Suez Canal Convention.

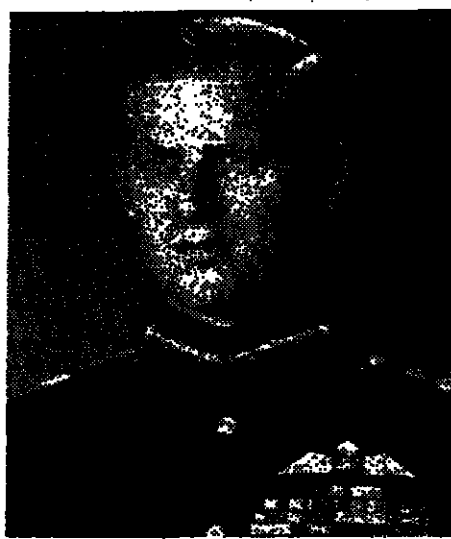
Despite the nationalization of the canal, the Suez Canal Company still had assets, the Cabinet was told in May 1957 when it was decided that they could be reinvested in a Channel Tunnel. "No pressing need" was how the Cabinet minute-taker recorded its decision.

The philosophical and political uncertainty caused by the Suez withdrawal extended beyond the resignation of Mr Anthony Eden as Prime Minister in January 1957. Uncertainty about British military potential lay behind Cabinet discussions on Cyprus, then in the throes of unrest. Partitioning the island between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, now a fact of life, was seriously canvassed.

Suez left in its wake a weak currency. Sterling preoccupied the Chancellor of the Exchequer throughout the year, prompting two rounds of expenditure cuts and giving rise to a pressing need to reassess military capacity.

In the Defence Review that year, the Chiefs of Staff made their displeasure sharply known with a strong minute saying cuts in the armed forces and the end of conscription had to be recorded as entirely due to financial imperatives and flew in the face of military necessity.

The Cabinet wondered what to do about a shortfall in the number of recruits once National Service ended. It even discussed "the possibility of obtaining recruits from overseas territories and particularly from colonies" - a



England: Anthem for the Duke.



Bermuda: Summit greeting for Mr Macmillan and President Eisenhower.



Egypt: Fears after invasion.



Cyprus: British troops round up demonstrators backing Archbishop Makarios.

Wales appeased

Wales held the Cabinet's attention throughout 1957 as Mr Macmillan tried to play down increasing pressure from the principality for the establishment of a full Secretary of State for Wales.

Welsh sentiment was one of the reasons why the Severn Bridge was brought forward as an investment project. The Cabinet was told that "its

construction, the cost of which would eventually be met by the receipts from tolls, was fully justified on economic grounds".

Thirty years later, the Comptroller and Auditor General has just reported that it will be well into the next century before the bridge is expected to break even.

Union law move

Legislation restricting the rights of the unions was considered, during a year of industrial action in the docks, on the buses and the railways.

The Cabinet decided against a new law, because many trade unionists had voted Tory in 1952 and 1955, and "the political objective of the Government was, and must remain, the establishment of

the Conservative Party in the eyes of public opinion as a national party which was concerned to represent the interests of all sections of the community".

Government publicity instead concentrated on women, who were thought most receptive to arguments against strikes.

Workers exposed to very high radiation doses

'Cockcroft's Folly' restricted disaster

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The fire in the Windscale Number One plutonium production reactor on October 8, 1957, would have been many times worse but for the foresight of one man: Sir John Cockcroft, the scientist who first split the atom.

He had insisted that galleries containing radiation filters should be built at the top of air discharge chimneys over both Windscale reactors.

The filters were known as Cockcroft's Folly by those who thought them unnecessary, but they prevented a major accident from being a complete catastrophe.

Although a short report on

the fire was published, less has been known publicly about Windscale than about the Chernobyl accident last year.

Two days elapsed before any news of the Windscale fire reached newspapers, and then an official statement said: "There was no evidence of there being any hazard to the public. There was not a large amount of radioactivity released. The amount was not hazardous and in fact it was carried out to sea by the wind."

Two days later distribution of milk from farms near Windscale was banned because of the thyroid cancer risk from contamination by

iodine 131, and the ban eventually covered an area 200 miles round the plant.

The appendix to the official report from the inquiry into the accident shows that workers were exposed to up to 150 times the permitted lifetime dose of radiation. Outside the works, radioactivity levels in the air were 10 times the recommended safety limits.

The accident occurred in carrying out a procedure that was regarded as a routine operation to cope with potentially dangerous stores of power known as Wigner energy, being built up in the graphite blocks that formed part of that type of reactor.

The condition would occur only in the type of atomic pile design selected for the Windscale Number One and Two reactors.

When the physicists operating the plant believed there was a build-up of Wigner energy, they went through a procedure of rapidly increasing and then lowering the power levels of the reactor. That released the Wigner energy in a surge of power.

In 1957 there was a miscalculation of the amount of latent Wigner energy, and what should have been a routine heating to get rid of the energy turned into a sudden extra burst of uncontrolled heating. Nuclear fuel cans ruptured undetected, and uranium fuel burned, releasing a lethal mixture of radioactivity up the 460ft chimney.

The uranium fire was followed by combustion of the graphite blocks, a forerunner of Chernobyl. First attempts to quench the fire by pumping in carbon dioxide made matters worse. Fed with carbon dioxide, the flames intensified.

Vast quantities of water were then poured on the reactor, creating a gigantic pall of radioactive steam and smoke. When the fire was extinguished, 10 tons of highly radioactive melted fuel were left, which the nuclear industry still does not know what to do with.

Thirty-year wait for compensation

Mr Arthur Wilson was retired from his work as an instrument technician in 1961 at the age of 38 because of a progressive paralysis of his limbs.

His disease has gradually got worse, and he has spent the past 12 years confined to a wheelchair.

He was the first worker to spot the 1957 fire at Windscale - looking through an observation port while standing on top of the reactor.

Yesterday, at his home in Furness Street, Millom, Cumbria, he said: "There was so little known about the dangers of radiation in those days."

"I worked at the plant for 12 years and I was subjected to heavy doses of radiation over a period of time."

"By 1961 I was going to work with the aid of a walking stick while still in my thirties. But no one has ever been able to prove that radiation

was the cause of my illness."

"I am certain that radiation is the cause and I am making a claim for compensation."

Mr Wilson, now 64 and living alone, is being helped in his claim by a pressure group, *Centurians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment*.

Yesterday Mrs Jean Emery, the group's organizer, demanded that other details of the fire, which are still secret, should now be released.

"The sad thing is that the health reports after the fire weren't completed until 1961, so we will have to wait until 1991 for that information to come out," she said.

"Thirty years after the incident they are still not coming clean on what effect this fire had. At the time they kept everyone quiet by refusing to tell them what was going on."

40th year of Times Christian names

Births Certificate									
1947	1952	1957	1962	1967	1972	1977	1982	1987	
Girls									
1 Elizabeth	Mary	Mary	Mary	Mary	Louise	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	
2 Mary	Elizabeth	Ann/Anne	Ann/Anne	Louise	Elizabeth	Mary	Jane	Mary	
3 Jane	Jane	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Mary	Jane	Mary	Charlotte	
4 Susan	Margaret	Caroline	Caroline	Caroline	Sarah	Sarah	Katherine	Alice	
5 Margaret	Caroline	Sarah	Sarah	Sarah	Victoria	Katherine	Sarah	Emma	
6 Jennifer	Susan	Margaret	Margaret	Lucy	Charlotte	Charlotte	Charlotte	Emily	
7 Caroline	Sarah	Susan	Catherine	Lucy	Charlotte	Charlotte	Charlotte	Sarah	
8 Diana	Catherine	Clare	Margaret	Clare	Emma	Emma	Alice	Sarah	
9 Frances	Frances	Susan	Catherine	Clare	Lucy	Lucy	Alexandra	Sophie	
10 Frances	Frances	Susan	Catherine	Clare	Lucy	Lucy	Alexandra	Sophie	
Boys									
1 John	John	John	James	James	James	James	James	James	
2 Michael	David	David	James	John	John	William	Edward	William	
3 Richard	Richard	Charles	Charles	William	Edward	Edward	Edward	Edward	
4 David	James	Charles	Richard	Richard	Edward	Edward	Alexander	Alexander	
5 Anthony	Charles	Richard	David	David	Charles	John	Thomas	Thomas	
6 Peter	Peter	William	William	Andrew	Charles	Thomas	John	John	
7 Charles	Michael	Christopher	Mark	Charles	David	Charles	Charles	Charles	
8 James	Nicholas	Simon	Andrew	Alexander	Thomas	David	Robert	Christopher	
9 Christopher	Andrew	Mark	Michael	Nicholas	Richard	Robert	David	David	
10 Christopher	Anthony	Michael	Nicholas	Edward	Nicholas	Richard	Richard	George	

The list of the top 10 names for boys and girls which have been announced in *The Times* over the past 40 years.

Continued from page 1 of *The Times*, recording the Christian names most favoured by this newspaper's readers.

In 1947, the letter said, 250 boys called John (somewhere on their birth certificates, not necessarily in first place) and 203 - Annes (107 of them without an "e") had been announced in the paper's births column.

In that era, births were recorded in the top left-hand corner of a front page devoted wholly to classified advertisements.

Mr Leaver's letter, published two days after receipt, was just 2in long.

In 1962, he added to his list of "happy events" a table of first names only (James was already at the top of the male list; Sarah headed the girls, as she has done for 15 of the past 25 years).

Mr Leaver had already begun to note the number of names allotted to each child: "It will be noticed," he wrote, "that the number of children born in 1962 to whom three Christian names were given totals 494. The corresponding total for the previous year was 474."

Mr Leaver died in 1973, bequeathing the task of analysing *Times* Christian names to a friend, Mrs Margaret Brown, then of Radford Semple, in Warwickshire, later of York.

Mrs Brown kept up the tradition until last year.

Careful reading of the annual letter on names will yield a mine of information, sociological and statistical. More than 171,000 births have been recorded since 1952, the first year that Mr Leaver provided a total.

Contrary to received wisdom, royalty and royal events have had little effect on the popularity of names. Charles has never strayed far from the middle of the charts; William is no higher in 1987 than he was in 1970; and Diana has not figured at all since she became the equal of Frances in tenth spot, in 1952.

Of the Royal House, only Edward shows signs of steady improvement, but it's a far bet that James and Elizabeth will stay close to the winning post for at least the next 10 years.

Letters, page 9

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Indian gunships sink Tamil boats

Colombo (AFP, AP) — Indian helicopter gunships sank four Tamil rebel boats off Sri Lanka's east coast yesterday and there were no reports of survivors, Indian military sources here said. The boats were sunk near the coastal village of Kanthakudy, in the eastern Batticaloa district.

Officials in Colombo said the death toll in Wednesday's clashes between Tamil gunmen and the Muslim fundamentalist Jihād group in Kanthakudy had risen to seven. Indian troops were investigating another report of 13 more deaths north-west of the village. In Batticaloa, the Liberation Tigers claimed that they had killed 30 Jihād members in revenge for a Muslim attack.

Umpire killed

Delhi (AFP) — An angry wicket-keeper hit an umpire over the head with a stump and killed him, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday.

The wicket-keeper disputed a decision by Mr Uday Vasant Pimple, aged 20, and smashed him over the head during a cricket match at Nagpur, central India, on Sunday.

Mr Pimple was admitted to hospital with serious head injuries, but died shortly afterwards. The wicket-keeper, who was not named, has disappeared and is being sought by the police.

Haven for Iranians

Dubai (Reuters) — Eight Iranians who threatened to commit suicide if forced to return to their homeland have found a temporary haven in this Arab Emirate, which has given them transit visas.

A Dubai security official said the group of four men, three women and a four-year-old boy had received visas. "Some had one-week transit visas and others two-week," the official said. He said he had no idea where their next destination might be, although according to earlier reports they might go to Turkey.

Kidnap suspect held

Amsterdam — A 31-year-old Dutchman was yesterday remanded in custody in connection with the kidnapping of a Dutch industrialist, Mr Gerrit Jan Heijn (A Correspondent writes). The arrest on Tuesday of the man, who has denied any involvement, followed an anonymous tip-off.

A police spokesman said a television appeal on Monday for information about the kidnapping has already brought in 3,000 leads from the public. The Heijn family has offered a £1 million guilder (about £285,700) reward for information leading to the solution of the case.

The police have publicly stated that they do not believe Mr Heijn, who is aged 56 and has been missing for 115 days, is still alive.

Tourists injured

Four British tourists from the Newbury area of Berkshire were injured in a night-club explosion at the Bulgarian ski resort of Borovets on Sunday night (Andrew McEwen writes).

British diplomats said yesterday that police investigating the incident thought it was an accident. Preliminary reports suggested that one of the tourists picked up an aerosol can, which exploded when the cap was removed. The two most-injured tourists, Mr Colin Armstrong and Miss Sally Day, are expected to stay in hospital until their flight home tomorrow.

Air crash payment

Seoul (AP) — Korean Air said yesterday it had reached an agreement to pay \$5 million (£2,760,000) in compensation for each of the 115 people on board an airliner that vanished near Burma in November.

A spokesman said the company would pay for the tuition of all children of the victims until they finished their college education.

The Boeing 707, flying from Baghdad to Seoul, disappeared near Burma on November 29 with 95 passengers and 20 crew members on board. South Korean officials said they suspected North Korean agents had put a bomb on the plane. North Korea has denied this.

Martial law is lifted

Johannesburg — The new ruler of Transkei, one of South Africa's four nominally independent black tribal homelands, announced yesterday that he was lifting the martial law he had imposed the previous day. Speaking at a news conference in Umtata, the Transkei capital, Major-General Bantu Holomisa said that the civil unrest which might have been expected to accompany the military takeover on Wednesday had not occurred.

"The transition to the new government has been so uneventful that I am now happy to announce that martial law no longer prevails," he declared, but added that "certain basic alterations" would be made to the Transkei Constitution. The major-general, who maintains that he seized power to stamp out corruption in high places, claimed to have "convincing documentary proof" that the ousted Prime Minister, Miss Stella Sigau, had accepted bribes.

Japan has designs on phone cards

From David Watts, Tokyo

Telephone cards did not seem such a good idea to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications when they were first mooted.

In fact, a delegation from the national telephone company went to the Ministry 100 times to try to persuade the Government that there was the answer to postmen's woes with 10-yen coins and telephones that kept cutting off in mid-call.

Now, however, the telephone card idea is being hailed as nothing short of commercial brilliance. The practical and trendy Japanese have taken to them in a big way, and these wafer-thin, credit card-sized tokens come adorned in a multitude of designs.

About 350 million telephone cards are in circulation in Japan, in at least 50,000 different designs. The younger generation choose their telephone card according to their mood. Nobody knows the precise number of designs because personalized telephone cards are all the rage. You can have them done as a wedding invitation with the couple's picture, or combined with a railway ticket (instead of punching the ticket the conductor tears off an adhesive strip), or with a pop concert admission, as a thank-you present, or to advertise a life insurance firm, or as a give-away for regular customers of laundries and car parks.

Now that the telephone company is privatized the slick, green dual-use card or coin phones are everywhere and Telex, the section of Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) that produces

and markets the cards, has grown from four people with second-hand desks and chairs crammed into a corner of NTT headquarters to 110 people occupying three floors.

But having your own designer telephone card is not cheap. A minimum of 300 costs £1,200, which goes some way to explaining why sales of telephone cards will be worth more than £400 million this year.

This success delights the telephone company, but not the growing army of telephone card collectors. They feel that there are too many designs around now. Serious collectors talk about bar codes and encoding errors, as opposed to the water marks and perforations that concern stamp collectors, when they meet at frequent auctions around the country. Tokyo has 10 auctions a month and telephone card prices are watched just as keenly as anything on the stock market through a string of costly newsletters. The plethora of new offerings has sent some prices tumbling. And collectors must watch out for fakes.

The telephone card equivalent of a Penny Black stamp dates from only two years ago and is worth £1,300 a copy, about 10 times its face value. It shows pop singer Yuki Saito when she made her debut with song called "Graduation". But to pick a winner today is much more difficult.

"You can't just go out and collect everything thinking it will go up in value," says a Tokyo man with a £25,000 collection of 6,000 cards. "Now I just collect error cards. You have to be very crazy to collect them all."

Blindfold youths sample Israeli justice

From Ian Murray
Ramatallah, occupied West Bank

They brought them blindfolded to face justice — 28 youngsters aged between 14 and 20 accused of throwing stones, burning tyres and blocking roads during two weeks of violence before Christmas when Palestinian youths took on the might of the Israeli Army and captured the world's attention.

They arrived at the military court here in a battered red coach from the cold of Dabariya camp, near Hebron. The camp is a makeshift one, put up to house some of the 900 and more arrested since the disturbances began. There have already come horror stories from the camp of appalling conditions in freezing weather and of humiliations carried out on prisoners by the troops.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, had himself toured the camp to check out the stories on Wednesday and found conditions "reasonable and acceptable". He added pointedly: "If I had enjoyed conditions like this when I was held

by the British I would have been delighted."

The 28 looked anything but delighted when they arrived at the court. Their blindfolds were tied tightly behind their heads. One lifted up a corner of the cloth to peer out as the coach stopped, revealing the cream plastic binding squeezing his wrists together.

They were led from the coach into the grim, square British-built barracks, which serve as military headquarters, court and prison. They thought, according to Mr Moussa Alkham, the lawyer for half of them, that they were being transferred from one prison to another and had no idea that they were about to appear in court.

Mr Alkham had agreed to defend 14 of them on Tuesday, before West Bank lawyers decided to join their colleagues in Gaza in a boycott of all cases connected with the two weeks of demonstration. Yesterday he tried to join the boycott by persuading the court to free him from his duty to defend.

The hearing began in the freshly-

decorated court room, with the presiding judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Danny Guetta, sitting behind the pine-paneled bench stretching along the end wall. With Israeli human rights observers and foreign journalists in court, he conducted proceedings with meticulous legal efficiency.

The interest of the press and observers was not, however, appe-

There have already been horror stories of appalling conditions and humiliations

ciated by the border policemen manning the gate to the barracks. For more than an hour journalists were kept outside. When they tried to get in, one snapped angrily: "You are responsible for what happened and what will happen."

But on higher authority the press was eventually allowed in to follow proceedings. The first four defendants were led into the court, looking very cold and dirty. One had no socks under his open-toed san-

dals. The others all had their shoelaces removed. They were dejected and far removed in spirit from the crowds of defiant youngsters who two weeks before had been hurling stones and insults at the Israeli Army.

Mr Alkham, neat in his white shirt and black gown, asked to be released from the defence. He had not had a chance to see his clients to find out about their case, he said. "I will not stand here as a symbol rather than a lawyer."

Major Ariyer Roter, prosecuting, dismissed these arguments. There were only three pages of handwritten evidence which had been available for the defence for 48 hours. "What kind of ethical behaviour is it to wait 48 hours and not read the papers just to make a point?" he asked.

The judge agreed. If the defence wanted more time, more time was available. He believed there was another, secret reason why Mr Alkham did not want to appear. He would not give a long adjournment because this would mean the young prisoners would spend more time in

prison awaiting trial. The case would start, with a defence lawyer, in no more than 10 days.

The same decision was handed out to two further batches of youngsters, with Mr Alkham instructed to defend.

The other 14 prisoners had no lawyer. One after the other they told the court they were not involved in the troubles, and were remained in custody. Some pleaded vainly to be allowed out on bail to take their matriculation examinations, for which they have studied for the past year. The court warned them they were facing serious charges and there was no question of bail.

So the 28, bound and blindfolded again, were driven back to camp. A lucky few had eventually been allowed to take coats given to them by relatives.

A similar hearing took place in Nablus, with none of the defendants being sentenced. In Gaza, where most cases involved a guilty plea, 12 were sentenced to between one and three months imprisonment and fines.

Unity accord stressed as Mugabe is sworn in

From Jan Raath, Harare

Mr Robert Mugabe was inaugurated yesterday as Executive President of Zimbabwe, fulfilling his and his party's desire to dispense with the trappings of Westminster for those of a traditional African leader.

Harare's national sports stadium, packed to the seams with more than 65,000 party faithful and six other African heads of state, erupted with cheers and whistles as the 63-year-old former teacher who spent 10 years in detention under the Rhodesian Government received the chains of office.

But the applause was hardly less for Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the Zanu party which signed an agreement to unite with Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party last week.

As the huge video monitor overlooking the Chinese-built stadium showed the arrival of the unofficial leader of the Ndebele people of western Zimbabwe, words on the screen described him as "Vice-President and Second Secretary of Zanu (PF)", the first public hint of how he is to be incorporated into the ruling party.

On the dais, Mr Nkomo was accorded the same position as Mr Simon Muzenda, aged 65, the existing party Deputy-President who is reported to be sharing the post with Mr Nkomo, while two other Zanu executives, Mr Joseph Msika, its Deputy-President, and Mr John Nkomo, the Zanu Secretary for Information, sat with other members of the Zanu (PF) Politburo.

Mr Muzenda was also named by Mr Mugabe as his State Deputy-President, ending hopeful speculation in some Zanu circles that Mr

Nkomo was in line for the post.

The inauguration ceremony automatically dissolved the Cabinet, and in the next few days Mr Mugabe is expected to announce a new one showing the degree to which the unity accord has been successful. This will be reflected in the number of positions of power going to Zanu members.

Mr Mugabe told the crowds that his inauguration had been made "more historic and auspicious" by the signing of the unity agreement.

Dropping the post of Prime Minister with a ceremonial head of state for an Executive President makes little change in Mr Mugabe's powers. During his speech he declared that "executive power can never rightly be a one-man show". As Prime Minister, he ran the Government with full authority, although nearly always in consultation with his Cabinet, confirming his reputation as a "consensus man" rather than an autocrat.

However, it is among the general Zimbabwean population that his change of office is expected to be felt. The conception of a leader unfettered by constitutional niceties sits far better on this continent, where power is often only respected when it is absolute.

MAPUTO: Mozambican rebels killed three people when they ambushed a bus travelling from Swaziland to Maputo, Mozambican police said yesterday (Reuters reports).

In the attack on Wednesday near the border town of Namacha, the Portuguese driver and two Mozambicans were killed.

Brother officer protects Argentina rebel leader



Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, left, the leader of the military rebellion in Argentina last Easter, sitting impassively as an army officer, accompanying him in a transfer from detention at a Buenos Aires barracks to house arrest before his trial, threatens a photographer with a gun for taking pictures of the move.

A caravan of cars, filled with fellow officers, made the journey with Colonel Rico from the Campo de Mayo base on Wednesday to the home of relatives in the nearby Bella Vista district (AFP reports). Military sources said he would remain at his new place of detention pending his trial for leading the officers' uprising

against President Alfonsín's Government. The Supreme Court last week opted not to turn the case over to a civilian court, which was expected to deal sternly with the incident, and instead decided that a military court should stage the trial.

As expected, the military judge downgraded the need for strict security measures for Colonel Rico, and allowed him to leave the barracks for his relatives' home, a military statement said.

The April revolt was led by officers demanding an end to prosecution of soldiers for human rights abuses committed during Argentina's repression of subversion between 1976 and 1983.

The officers argued that they should be free from prosecution because they were following orders when they carried out torture, kidnappings and murder of suspected left-wingers.

Señor Alfonsín personally intervened during the motiny, and went to the Campo de Mayo barracks that Colonel Rico and fellow officers held under siege to get them to give up their rebellion. President subsequently introduced a Bill, approved by the legislature, which absolved junior military officers from responsibility for abuses of human rights during the era of repression.

States reshape law on chests and elks

From Charles Bremner, New York

Women thinking of having breast enlargement surgery in the American state of Maryland now have to hear about the risks.

A new statute requiring doctors to advise potential customers on the dangers of mammary implants is one of dozens of laws that take effect in individual states today.

In Wyoming, for example, you will no longer be able to shoot an elk with the same permit that you use for killing

black bears. In Rhode Island, should you be operating a telephone switchboard that fails to give a disconnecting signal within five seconds, the police can take you in.

Residents of Illinois will now be able to marry their first cousins, provided that one of the couple can prove permanent sterility. From today, would-be married couples in Illinois and Louisiana must submit to tests for the Aids virus when they apply for a wedding licence. They will

not be barred from marriage if positive, but must undergo counselling.

In California, nudists will now be allowed to buy a drink in their camps. But naked or otherwise, no passenger may now smoke on a bus, train or plane within the state. The ruling is being challenged by the national train network, which says it answers only to federal law. Also in California, the "party party" law takes effect. This requires that the number of lavatories for fe-

males should equal that for males in all new buildings.

Penalties against drunken driving, a crime increasing again in America after years of decline, are being stiffened in several states. In Arizona, police will now seize driving licences on the spot.

In New York, insurance companies must lower their premiums — now horrendously high — for all drivers who have completed courses on how to avoid crashes.

Outrage over release of jailed Colombian cocaine baron

From Geoffrey Matthews
Bogota

The Colombian Government of President Barón was yesterday smarting with embarrassment after the release from jail of one of the world's top cocaine racketeers.

"What Shame Señor President!" blazed the front page banner headline in the Bogotá daily *El Espectador* after the astonishing liberation from the city's main prison on Wednesday evening of Jorge Luis Ochoa Vázquez, who had been captured only a month earlier.

Ochoa, aged 38, whose

extradition on multiple drug-smuggling charges was being sought by the United States, was freed after his lawyers went to La Picota prison bearing a judge's order for his release.

The Government did not learn of his release until afterwards.

Although recognized as an important international cocaine trafficker, and a leading member of the "Medellín Cartel" — the drug, cabal centred on the Colombian city which controls 80 per cent of the world's cocaine trade — Ochoa was only serving an

outstanding 22-month sentence for cattle smuggling.

It is thought to be no coincidence that at the very moment his lawyers entered La Picota, prisoners at the city's other main jail, La Modelo, attempted to make a mass breakout.

Troops were called in and three armed prisoners were killed in fighting which raged for several hours.

This conveniently demanded the full attention of the Director of National Prisons and Ministry of Justice officials as Ochoa's team of lawyers worked to obtain his release from the other prison.

At 7.30 pm he strode out through the main gate a free man. Something of a Keystone Cops farce then developed. By the time a police manhunt had been launched Ochoa had vanished.

Señor Enrique Low Murtra, the Minister of Justice, described the incident as "a defeat which makes us all suffer," and vowed to prosecute "those responsible for Ochoa's illegal release."

The head of Ochoa's legal team, Señor Humberto Barrera Domínguez, said his client had spent a year in detention in Spain while awaiting deportation to

Colombia on the bull-smuggling charge. "It wasn't fair that he was still being detained," he added.

Some legal experts argued that Ochoa's liberation may not have broken the letter of Colombian law.

His lawyers had successfully moved a *habeas corpus* petition to the judge who ordered his release, variously arguing that his cattle-smuggling conviction had run its course in absentia, and anyway was covered by the Government's acceptance of the Pope's call for an amnesty for prisoners convicted of

minor offences during his visit to Colombia in 1986.

Furthermore, in June the Supreme Court — following death threats from the cartel — declared unconstitutional a 1979 extradition treaty with the US specifically designed to bring international drug traffickers to justice. So despite Ochoa's detention on motor offences last month, he could not immediately be extradited, as happened in the case of Carlos Lehder Rivas, another leading drug baron.

Lehder is currently on trial in Jacksonville, Florida, on cocaine-trafficking charges.

Confident Roh sets tight schedule for reforms

From Gavin Bell
Seoul

Mr Roh Tae-Woo, the President-elect of South Korea, considers his most urgent task to be to restore political stability to his country — and he has set himself a tight schedule to achieve it.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Roh reaffirmed an election pledge to submit his Administration to a vote of confidence after the Olympic Games in September, and declared he would resign if the verdict was unfavourable.

He rejected allegations of widespread fraud during his election on December 16, and expressed confidence about gaining a working majority in forthcoming National Assembly elections. On foreign policy, Mr Roh was seeking to establish direct trade and "official" relations with China as a step towards reducing tension in north-east Asia, and he had received an encouraging response. Trade disputes with the United States and the European Economic Community should be resolved through mutual concessions, but the principle of free trade should not be compromised.

Asked what would be his new year resolutions, Mr Roh said: "More than anything else, after this hard-fought election, the people and the politicians should work hard towards reconciliation. I will do my utmost to achieve a tangible result."

"On the basis of this stability, I will try to ensure the success of the Olympic Games, in which all nations may participate, so that we may contribute to a peaceful international order. This contribution to the cause of peace is my aspiration."

Mr Roh's sentiments of peace and goodwill over the festive season have been spurned by the main opposition leaders, largely on the basis of allegations that his election was fraudulent. "The Korean people have already given their verdict on the issue of fraud," Mr Roh said.

"They said there was none, and the Korean press confirmed it. There may have been some isolated, individual cases of irregularities, as can happen in an election in any country. If anybody has evidence to support a specific allegation, he may file charges which will be dealt with according to the law of the country."

that Mr Roh can defuse political tensions before parliamentary elections due to be held either before or shortly after he assumes office on February 25. He thus faces another acrimonious campaign, with no assurance that his ruling Democratic Justice Party will gain an overall majority in the new assembly. If the voting pattern of the presidential poll

of seeking a vote of confidence after the Olympics.

"This may be done in several ways, either in the National Assembly or by a referendum on a particular policy. In deciding how to conduct it, I will consult the people and follow their wishes. If ever I am denied their confidence, then I am firmly resolved to resign."

In view of trade frictions with the West, Mr Roh is clearly hoping for new trade winds to spring up in the direction of China. "The improvement of relations between China and Korea is demanded by history, and is an inevitable development. Exchanges between the two countries in sport and commerce will gradually develop into official relations. I hope that these relations may be formalized before or after the Olympic Games," he said.

"This will in turn contribute to peace in north-east Asia. I think this is the time to take an initiative in this direction."

Mr Roh was prepared to reach a compromise on trade disputes with the United States and the EEC, but was concerned about protectionism.

"In dealing with trade issues, what we should bear in mind and never forget is the principle of free trade. We should be wary of growing protectionism. I think the principle of free trade should be upheld by Korea, the United States and the European countries."

"Specifically, we should avoid dealing with these questions only on the basis of commercial interests. Rather we should strive for concessions on both sides. Given such mutual co-operation, I believe we can resolve these serious problems."

At 55, Mr Roh appears to be in good shape, which perhaps is not surprising. A former Army officer who commanded an elite Korean combat unit in the Vietnam War, he maintains his form with a workout in a gymnasium and a lengthy swim most mornings.

Assiduously discarding his military image, he positively beams with bonhomie on every public occasion. In keeping with his new image as an "ordinary man", Mr Roh says he does not wish to be referred to as excellency, and has mildly chastised aides who wanted him to ride around in a bullet-proof Cadillac. He prefers his trusty old (Korean-made) Grandeur car.

OUTLOOK '88

What 1988 holds for the world

Elections in the US, France and Israel ...
Times correspondents across the world look forward to the significant changes

UNITED STATES

Michael Banyon

Two events will dominate the year for America: the proposed summit in Moscow and the presidential election. But other vexed issues will continue to make headlines: the budget and trade deficits and the nervous Wall Street reactions, US operations in the Gulf, and the ever mounting toll of Aids.

The presidential election will be the main political event, starting with the campaigning in Iowa and New Hampshire for the crucial voting there in February, and ending on November 8 with the election of the new president. All eyes are focused on faithful number two George Bush and his chances of capturing the Republican nomination in August.

The campaign will further overshadow President Reagan, but he will play a vital role in the arms negotiations expected to culminate in a visit to Moscow, probably in June. There he hopes to sign a strategic arms reduction treaty, but he may first have to make a choice over his Strategic Defence Initiative. He will also need to use all his remaining authority to cajole the Senate into ratifying the intermediate-range treaty signed in December.

The economy will continue to be a worry. Congress is unlikely to take any unpopular steps to curb the deficit, and many observers are expecting further trouble on Wall Street and another crisis of confidence. Relations with Japan, whose new Prime Minister comes here in January to discuss the trade imbalance, will continue to be tense.

No firm action is expected in the Middle East, where the Administration will be reluctant in an election year to propose any initiative that might upset Israel. However, it will try to cool things in the Gulf, putting more emphasis on seeking concerted United Nations action.

SOVIET UNION

Christopher Walker

The year will start on a difficult note, with the Kremlin facing problems with its latest economic report — the switch to self-financing for 60 per cent of Soviet industrial organizations from today. Rumbling discontent from workers facing financial penalties for shoddy production, and from consumers facing the costly prospect of price reform, are expected to grow more ominous.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to face more pressure from Kremlin conservatives, above all Mr Yegor Ligachov

—cock-a-hoop since the dismissal of Mr Boris Yeltsin — to further slow the pace of reform, notably the greater freedom of expression in the arts and the media. He is expected to use the opportunity of the all-union Communist Party conference in June to try to strengthen his grip on the party's ruling Central Committee.

The fourth Gorbachev-Reagan summit is expected to proceed as planned in Moscow in June. But securing a second strategic nuclear weapons pact will remain a cliff-hanger until the last minute, and may even cause a summit postponement. Military pressures on both sides, and the continuing obstacle of "Star Wars" may dictate that it goes no further than an agreement in principle.

EEC

Richard Owen

This will be the make or break year for financial reform in the EEC. The Community enters the new year flat broke, and cash for the farm budget — two-thirds of the total — is expected to run out by late summer. The EEC is operating from today on a monthly system of provisional twelfths based on 1987 revenue. Unfortunately, EEC politics are likely to be complicated in 1988 by electoral considerations in both France and West Germany.

The crunch will come on February 11 and 12 when EEC leaders meet in Brussels for a special summit after their failure to agree at the 1987 Brussels or Copenhagen summits. The stage is set for a confrontation between Mrs Thatcher, who refuses to budge from her view that only a system of stabilizers, or strict penalties for over-production, will cut farm spending, and Chancellor Kohl, who fears a backlash from German farmers in local elections in 1988 and favours a scheme for taking farmland out of production, with compensation for the farmers.

If they fail to agree, they will have one final opportunity at the summit in Hannover at the end of the German Presidency in June. The Presidency then passes to Greece, and in 1989 to Spain.

One personnel question to be decided by mid-1988 is who will succeed M Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission. Candidates include Mr Rüd Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, Dr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Herr Martin Bangemann, the West German Economics Minister. If none of these succeeds, or is available, M Delors may be asked to stay on for another two years.

FRANCE

Philip Jacobson

With the first round of the presidential election due in late April, France still does not know whether President Mitterrand will throw his hat into the ring again.

Until he decides (and close aides insist he is genuinely undecided whether to run again) M Mitterrand effectively controls the strategy of his two main conservative rivals, M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, and M Raymond Barre. Rest assured, "Le Sphinx" will keep them on edge for as long as it suits him.

Appropriately, perhaps, the country generally is entering 1988 in a decidedly uncertain mood. The stock market crash shook confidence badly and short-term economic prospects are not encouraging.

The ubiquitous opinion polls suggest a great many French have a vague but pervasive sense of losing their God-given role as leaders of Western Europe.

Stand by for more Gallic *nombrilisme* — literally, navel gazing.

W GERMANY

Richard Owen

For Chancellor Helmut Kohl, 1988 threatens a further loss of popularity in vital location elections, and promises little respite from the coalition problems which have beset him in 1987. On top of this, he has the difficult task of presiding over the EEC for the first six months of the year, a stewardship culminating in the EEC summit at Hannover in June.

The CDU-CSU-FDP coalition will be subject to strain over Germany's handling of Europe. It is already having difficulties with a range of issues at home, including social questions such as abortion, Aids, and control of violent demonstrations. The FDP (Liberals) seek more flexible (and indeed liberal) laws than the two conservative parties. There are also likely to be divisions over how to tackle the decline of the steel and mining industries in the troubled industrial heartland of the Ruhr valley.

On the foreign front, Bonn's *Ostpolitik* looks set to continue on an even course. Herr Kohl's remarks in the heat of the election campaign a year ago, when he compared Mr Gorbachev to Goebbels, have apparently been forgotten, at least for now. Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is due to visit Bonn on January 18 to pave the way for a Gorbachev-Kohl summit later in the year.



Reagan and Gorbachev grasped the hand of friendship — but will those who seek to follow them see eye to eye?

Richard Wilson

● All eyes are focused on faithful number two George Bush and his chances of capturing the nomination ●

● Gorbachev faces more pressure from Kremlin conservatives, above all Yegor Ligachov ●

ISRAEL

Ian Murray

Israel celebrates its fortieth birthday this year with a general election as an appropriate symbol of its proud boast to be the only true democracy in the Middle East. The poll is not scheduled to take place until November, but given the realities of Israeli politics it is bound to dominate everything which happens between now and then — if the Palestinians let it.

Since the one really divisive issue is how to pursue peace, the campaign actually began in the summer of 1985, with the withdrawal of most Israeli troops from the Lebanon. That was the last thing on which the National Unity Government could really agree. Since then, both Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud faction leader, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, have been jockeying for position in the peace stakes.

More accurately, Mr Peres has been jockeying for position, while Mr Shamir has concentrated on trying to tip him up. While Mr Peres has toured the world drumming up support for the international conference he believes is the only way to achieve direct negotiations, Mr Shamir has been content to point out that his rival is backing an Arab idea, which means that Israel is bound to lose out if it takes part.

The year ahead promises more of the same. The unknown factor is the extent to which the Arab population is prepared to take to the streets to win more of the international support and sympathy which they gained during the pre-Christmas riots.

SOUTH AFRICA

Michael Hornsby

An increasingly autocratic President Botha, who will turn 72 on January 12 but shows no sign of thinking about retirement, leads a tragically divided South Africa into 1988 with no end in sight to the longest peace-time state of emergency in the country's history.

Since the emergency was imposed on June 12 1986, more than 30,000 people are estimated to have been jailed without trial for varying periods. Of these, about 1,850 are believed to be still in prison, including those being held under the Internal Security Act, which is permanently in force.

Helped by funding among his black opponents, Mr Botha will maintain his tough repression of anti-apartheid activists. At least five newspapers are likely to be closed or have official censors installed in their offices. The leader of the outlawed African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, can expect to spend another year, his twenty-sixth, in jail.

JAPAN

David Watts

The Year of the Dragon will see Japanese incomes stride comfortably ahead of their American rivals — a peaceful reversal of the American victory 43 years ago at the end of the Second World War.

But 1988 will see trade clashes as surpluses start to soar again and as US presidential candidates use Japan as a scapegoat for America's trade problems. A new solution to those problems — the notion

of a free trade area linking the world's two most powerful economies — will gather adherents.

Watch, too, for a new attitude towards the Soviet Union and towards Americans and their dollar. There's nothing Japanese respect more than economic success and consistency, and the much-admired big brother across the Pacific has shown little of either lately. Many see Washington heading the rules to try and deal Japan out of the game. The time is ripe for better relations with Moscow, particularly if *glasnost* opens the way for investment. Europe, too, with its big markets and the looming political union looks more and more worthy as a partner.

But with the cautious, consensus-minded Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeuchi in power, allies could become more frustrated as they watch Japan pile up its world-wide assets and investments, but offer nothing new in terms of shouldering the burdens of the Western world.

PHILIPPINES

Hamphrey Hawkey

The year begins with the local election campaign, leading to voting on January 18. It is officially the last stage in the return to democracy in the Philippines, but it is likely to be violent.

Graduation from the Philippines Military Academy at the beginning of April is the highlight of the military year. It also coincides roughly with the retirement of many senior generals, and will see a realignment of the military which will, in turn, affect the Government. Negotiations on the United States military bases are expected to start in

June or July, culminating with a new agreement (or not) in 1991. These negotiations will give insights into the Asia-Pacific defence policies of the United States, Japan and the ASEAN countries.

There is no threat of another serious coup attempt in the near future. Muslim secessionists in the south are mainly quiet and adhering to a ceasefire agreed in September 1986. Communist guerrillas remain the serious long-term security threat.

THE GULF

Hazhir Tehrani

The Iran-Iraq war inevitably dominates the Gulf region at the start of the new year, with the possibility of a new Iranian offensive against the Iraqi city of Basra. Ayatollah Khomeini, or his designated successor as Iran's leader, Ayatollah Montazeri, is unlikely to agree to a peaceful settlement of the seven-year-old conflict but, if the expected offensive fails, an exhausted Iran might have no alternative but to allow it to fade away.

Iraq would be unhappy with such an outcome and might keep up its attacks on Iranian shipping in the Gulf, bringing Iranian retaliation against vessels bound for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Western navies patrolling the waterway at present can be safely expected to stay in place for some time, despite Soviet efforts to replace them with a United Nations force.

No threats to the governments of the region are foreseen, but a significant political event will be Iran's parliamentary elections on April 8. None of the candidates will be contesting seats as representatives of political parties,

but groups adhering to various shades of Islamic radicalism are competing for domination of the next Majlis, which may have a crucial role in the era that follows the death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

AUSTRALIA

Keith Dalton

Australia's bicentennial will dominate the coming year. Marking 200 years of white settlement, the celebrations will start with the January 26 arrival in Sydney Harbour of 11 sailing ships from Portsmouth, recreating the voyage of the First Fleet which brought more than 750 convicts to the penal colony of New South Wales.

The Labor Government of Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, will be riding high on a wave of nationalistic exuberance — despite promised demonstrations by activists among the country's original inhabitants, about 300,000 Aborigines.

Mr Hawke is enjoying high personal popularity and since the July election his position has become stronger than ever. But an important test for Labor, after the October share market crash, will be the mid-year elections in New South Wales — the most populous state, where a Labor Government is in power.

Most political attention, however, will focus on whether Mr Hawke can fulfil his pledge of economic reform after the devastating impact that the share market collapse had on the economy. Gains in the past year from the Government's rationalization drive have been jeopardized by serious capital flight, increased unemployment and signs of a substantial decline in growth.

More Amerasians head for US

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

About 65 Amerasians, the children fathered by Americans during the Vietnam War, arrived in Thailand yesterday with their relatives on their way to new homes in the United States.

They are the first of an estimated 10,000 Amerasians still in Vietnam to leave under a new agreement between Washington and Hanoi.

Most of them were teenagers but a few in their early twenties carried details and photographs of their fathers.

Mrs Lam Cam Tai pointed to the photograph of Lieutenant Michael Drickley of the US Army. She said he had to leave Vietnam just before their baby was born. Alongside her their daughter, Traa Thy Anh, aged 14, gazed at her father's picture.

"After he left he wrote for two years and sent money from Oklahoma but I never heard after 1975. I expect he's married now. I don't want to cause troubles," Mrs Tai said.

Some of the Amerasians said they wanted to meet their fathers and to live with them, but US officials say not many



A US soldier's daughter in Bangkok yesterday with her son.

will be doing that as most of the fathers say they cannot accept these sons and daughters without wrecking their marriages.

Since the Amerasian resettlement programme began five years ago fewer than 10 per cent of the 4,000 who have gone to the United

States settled with their fathers. The Amerasians have full rights as American citizens.

The resettlement programme came to a halt almost two years ago because of a disagreement between the Americans and the Vietnamese over procedure. When

the United States changed these methods Vietnam permitted the scheme to resume, at the same time sanctioning the resumption of the orderly departure programme for refugees which is designed to stop illegal departures by boat.

The new agreements made by Washington and Hanoi underline the continuing improvement in their relations. Although the United States has said it will not establish normal relations until Vietnam withdraws from Cambodia, State Department officials say that it is perfectly possible for the two countries to have effective relations on humanitarian issues related to the war.

The US Ambassador to Thailand, Mr William Brown, greeted the Amerasians as they arrived at Bangkok airport from Vietnam (Reuters reports). "This is going to be a very exciting new year for you and your new homeland as you get to know its people," he said.

The Amerasians are being processed in Bangkok before moving to a camp in the Philippines for about six months of language study and cultural orientation.

Gandhi shelters in coral island haven after surviving political battering

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

It is a measure of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's self-confidence — his detractors would call it arrogance — that he has felt able to take himself, his family, friends, security guards and political intimates on holiday for the New Year to an island resort in the Arabian Sea.

Last year at this time and with a similar circus in tow he went to a resort island in the Bay of Bengal, and the howl of protest in the press and Parliament would have been more appropriate for a pope caught in *flagrant delicto* with a female Baptist preacher.

In repeating the offence this year the Indian Prime Minister has laid himself open for more hostile comment but seems prepared to shrug it off.

He has duly been rewarded with a series of pointedly critical cartoons, showing him and his Italian-born wife, Sonia, relaxing rather stiffly on a beach, with a table loaded with viands close by. In *The Times of India* Sonia is telling him to relax and stop worrying about which place to go to relax next.

In the *Indian Express* he is

telling her that somehow he always feels he is on an island holidaying, and in the same paper the day before the entire map of India sighs longingly "When?" as he dreams of getting away from it all permanently.

But for the past 12 months Mr Gandhi has made a specialty of riding out storms of criticism. The *Indian Express* was rewarded for its tough criticism with government orchestrated attacks in the form of tax raids, newspaper restrictions, union disputes and police obstruction.

But as he relaxes on the coral sands of the Lakshadweep chain, Mr Gandhi can congratulate himself on having survived the battering his Administration received over the Bofors scandal — which across over the payment of \$3 million (£3.1 million) of bribes to obtain a Howitzer contract, on having turned the Fairfax scandal over the pursuit of tax dodgers against his detractors, on having caused everyone virtually to forget the scandal over the submarine deal which in-

volved pay-offs of more than \$3 million.

He has re-emphasized his control over the bureaucracy by dismissing the Foreign Secretary and the Delhi police chief (though the latter was later reinstated), and over the political leadership of his own party by attacking Mr Harideo Joshi, the chief minister of Rajasthan.

He also has laid the groundwork for a principled return to the political arena, with a "retreat" for his entire Cabinet to Sariska game reserve in Rajasthan. The politicians took time away from the short-term pressures of Delhi to think about the long term.

The first fruits of this appeared to be a quite startling announcement by the Prime Minister last week that socialism no longer provided the answers to India's problems. Congress (I) leaders have since backtracked on this bold declaration but it certainly indicates the direction in which Mr Gandhi's Administration is likely to travel during the next two-year run-

up to the general elections. In that period Mr Gandhi has to show that he is capable again of winning elections. If not, the current wisdom is that he will be unceremoniously dumped by his party just before the polls.

Congress (I) having lost every single state elections since he came to power three years ago, Mr Gandhi was plainly greatly relieved to win the Nagaland elections — at no matter what cost to the exchequer. He no doubt has hopes of turning that victory into a winning streak with state elections in nearby Tripura and Meghalaya in February.

But as he begins the long climb back there are signs that his opponents are also for the first time getting their act together. The Janata Party and the Jan Morcha, which was formed by the former Finance and Defence Minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in the summer, and two other opposition factions have agreed to fight the next elections under a common symbol, and with a common programme.

Anniversaries of 1988

JANUARY

1 *The Daily Universal Register*, founded Jan 1, 1785 was refounded *The Times*, 1788.
3 James Bridle (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, born Glasgow, 1888.
Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, born London, 1888.
6 Max Bruch, composer, born Cologne, 1838.
10 Niels Stenstrom, anatomist, born Copenhagen, 1838.
16 Franz Brentano, philosopher, born Marlenberg, Germany, 1838.
21 Will Dyson, cartoonist, died London, 1938.

6 Louisa May Alcott, writer, died Boston, Massachusetts, 1888.
9 Kaiser Wilhelm I, German Emperor 1871-88, died Berlin, 1888.
10 Joseph, Baron von Eichendorff, poet, born Rastatt, Germany, 1778.
12 Sir William Henry Perkin, chemist, pioneer of artificial dyes, born London, 1838.
Eric Kennington, painter, born London, 1888.
13 Paul Morand, writer, born Paris, 1888.
14 Nikolai Bukharin, Marxist theoretician, executed Moscow, 1938.
19 Josef Albers, painter and poet, born Bottrop, Germany, 1888.
24 Thomas Atwood, organist and composer, died London, 1838.
26 W E H Lecky, historian, born Dublin, 1838.
28 Charles Wesley, poet and hymn writer, died London, 1788.

APRIL

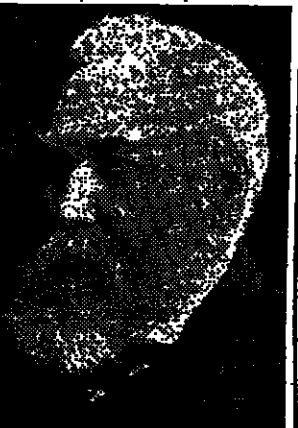
2 Léon Gambetta, statesman, born Cahors, France, 1838.
8 Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, born Malmesbury, Wiltshire, 1588.
9 The National Gallery, London, opened 1838.
11 Walter James Macquenn-Pope, theatre historian, born Farnham, Surrey, 1888.
12 Fyodor Chaliapin, singer and actor, died Paris, 1938.
14 William Cavendish Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland, Prime Minister 1783, 1807-9, born Buxton, Derbyshire, 1738.
15 Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, died Liverpool, 1888.
18 George Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, naturalist, died Paris, 1788.
Sir Richard Terry, musician, died London, 1938.
Bertram Mills, circus proprietor, died Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, 1938.
17 Dame Margaret Teyte, singer, born Wolverhampton, 1888.

Boy wonder: teenage Byron

22 George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, poet, born London, 1788.
23 Gilbert Ladow, sculptor, born London, 1888.
Eugène Labiche, dramatist, died Paris, 1888.
26 Arthur Phillip founded Sydney, Australia in 1788 with 1,030 persons; on the 28th the first penal colony was founded at Botany Bay.
29 Sydney Chapman, scientist, born Eccles, Lancs, 1888.
Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, born Stockholm, 1688.
Edward Lear, writer and artist, died San Remo, 1888.
31 Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, died Florence, 1788.
Sir James Crichton-Browne, physician, died Dumfries, 1938.

FEBRUARY

3 Sir Henry Maine, jurist, died Cannes, 1888.
4 Pierre de Marivaux, novelist, born Paris, 1888.
5 Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-35, 1841-45, born Bury, Lancs, 1788.
6 Sir Henry Irving, actor, born Somerset, 1838.

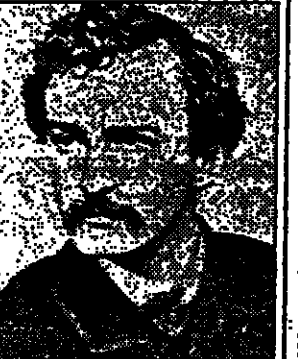


League founder: McGreggor
William McGreggor helps found Football League, 1888.
18 Sir Arnold Lumley, ski pioneer and Christian controversialist, born Madras, 1888.
19 Paolo Veronese, painter, died Venice, 1588.
Sir Henry Newbolt, poet, died London, 1938.

MAY

Role player: actress Evans

6 Dame Edith Evans, actress, born London, 1888.
9 Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, died Wellington, New Zealand, 1938.
16 Henry Adams, historian and novelist, born Boston, Massachusetts, 1838.
17 Ronald Knox, priest and Bible translator, born Kibworth, Leics, 1888.
19 Ernest Meach, physicist, born Chirch-Turns, Austrie, 1838.
20 Georges Bernanos, novelist, born Paris, 1888.
21 Winifred Ashton (Clemence Dane), novelist and dramatist, born London, 1888.
22 Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, born Danzig (Gdansk), 1788.
25 Thomas Cubitt, builder, born Buxton, Norfolk, 1788.
28 Sir Robert Aytoun, poet, died London, 1838.



Lincoln's killer: Booth

MARCH

1 Gabrieli D'Annunzio, poet, died Gardone Riviera, Italy, 1938.
2 Salomon Gessner, painter and poet, died Zurich, 1788.



The Armada sails into Drake's clutches (beaten 1588), Chamberlain briefly in Hitler's (appeased 1938), the drawn legacy of Lear (died 1888), the Lords salute Victoria (crowned 1838)

11 Irving Berlin, composer, born Toms, Russia, 1888.
16 Stephen Fairbairn, carman, died London, 1938.
Friedrich Rückert, poet, born Schweinfurt, Germany, 1788.
17 Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand, statesman, died Paris, 1838.
19 St Dunston, died 988.
21 Alexander Pope, poet, born London, 1688.
25 Miles Malleson, actor and stage director, born London, 1888.
31 Henry Sidgwick, philosopher, born Skipton, Yorks, 1838.

AUGUST

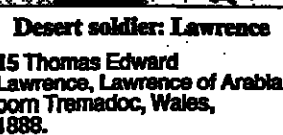
2 Joseph John Gurney, philanthropist, born Earham Hall, Norfolk, 1788.
Thomas Galsborough, painter, died London, 1788.
7 Konstantin Stanislavsky, theatre director, died Moscow, 1938.



13 John Logie Baird, television pioneer, born Helensburgh, Strathclyde, 1888.
14 Sir Landon Ronald, musician, died London, 1938.

Colonial leader: George III

4 George III, reigned 1760-1820, born London, 1738.
10 James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, born London, 1688.
11 James III of Scotland, reigned 1460-88, murdered, Sauchieburn, 1488.
15 Martin Cyril D'Arcy, Jesuit provincial, born Bath, 1888.
Frederick III, German emperor, reigned March 9 1888-June 15 1888, died Potsdam, 1888.
16 Herbert Smith, trade union leader, died Barnsley, Yorks, 1938.
22 Jacques Deslles, poet, born Aigues-Pert, Auvergne, 1788.
25 Ralph Cudworth, scholar, died Cambridge, 1688.
Edward Verrall Lucas, essayist, died London, 1938.
27 Sir Lewis Namier, historian, born Wola Odrzewska, Poland, 1888.
28 Coronation of Queen Victoria, 1838.



15 Thomas Edward Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, born Tremadoc, Wales, 1888.
16 Joseph Miller, actor, died London, 1788.
22 Thomas Throgold, architect, born Brandon, Durham, 1788.
23 Philip Henry Gosse, zoologist, died Torquay, 1888.
25 Sir Henry Morgan, buccaneer and governor of Jamaica, died Lawrencefield, Jamaica, 1688.
26 Elizabeth Chudleigh, Countess of Bristol, adventuress, died Paris, 1788.
31 John Bunyan, preacher and writer, died London, 1688.
The body of Mary Ann Nichols was found in Whitechapel, London — the first of a number of murders attributed to Jack the Ripper, 1888.

Air commander: Zeppelin

9 Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, airship pioneer, born Biberach, Germany, 1838.
Bruce Balmfether, cartoonist, born India, 1888.
Simon Marks, 1st Baron Marks of Broughton, founder of Marks and Spencer, born Leeds, 1888.
10 Hadrian, Roman emperor, 117-138, died Bala, near Naples, 138.

SEPTEMBER

1 William Clark, explorer in north-west America, died St Louis, Missouri, 1838.
9 Richard Taitton, actor and jester, died London, 1588.
4 Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Elizabeth I, died Combury, Oxfordshire, 1588.
5 Louis XIV, king of France, reigned 1643-1715, born Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 1638.

20 Sir George Otto Trevelyan, writer, born Rothley Temple, Leics, 1838.
21 Jacques Feyder, film director, born Brussels, 1888.
23 Raymond Chandler, detective story writer, born Chicago, 1888.
26 Frances Evelyn Greville, Countess of Warwick, socialist, died Dunmow, Essex, 1938.
29 The Spanish Armada was routed, 1588.
30 Jean-Jacques Bernard, dramatist, born Enghien-les-Bains, France, 1888.

Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, scholar, president of India 1952-67, born Tiruttani, 1888.
6 Laurence Eusden, poet laureate 1718-30, baptized Spofforth, Yorks, 1688.
7 Grace Darling and her father rescued nine people when the steamboat *Forfarshire* was wrecked off the Farnes Islands, 1838.
8 William Collins, landscape painter, born London, 1778.
12 Maurice Chevalier, actor, born Montmartre, Paris, 1888.
15 Thomas Wolfe, novelist, died Baltimore, Maryland, 1938.
18 Richard Cobden established the Anti-Corn Law League in Manchester, 1838.
22 Theodore Edward Hook, writer and practical joker, born London, 1738.
23 Hermann Boerhaave, physician, born Voorhout, Netherlands, 1738.
26 Thomas Stearns Eliot, poet and critic, born St Louis, Missouri, 1888.
29 Cyril Maude, novelist, born Bodmin, 1888.
Thomas Gambier Parry, fresco painter, died Highnam, Glos, 1888.
29 Munich Conference between Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini, 1938.
30 Fitzroy James Somerset, 1st Baron Raglan, commander-in-chief in the Crimean War, born Badminton, Glos, 1788.

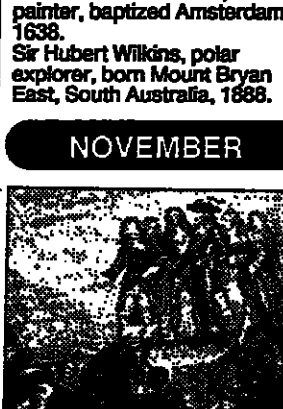
OCTOBER

8 Montagu William Corry, 1st Baron Rowton, politician and philanthropist, born London, 1838.
9 Claude Perrault, physician and architect, died Paris, 1688.
10 Benjamin West, historical painter, president Royal Academy 1792-1820, born Springfield, Pennsylvania, 1738.
Martin Bladen Hawke, 7th Baron Hawke, cricketer, died Edinburgh, 1938.
11 Arthur Phillip, admiral, first governor of New South Wales, born London, 1738.
14 Katharine Mansfield, writer, born Wellington, New Zealand, 1888.
15 Letitia Elizabeth Landon, poet, died Cape Coast Castle, 1838.
16 Eugene O'Neill, dramatist, born New York, 1888.
17 John Brown, physician, died London, 1788.
20 Jacopo della Quercia, sculptor, died Bologna, 1438.
21 George Combe, physiologist, born Edinburgh, 1788.
24 Joseph Lancaster, educationist, died New York, 1838.



25 Georges Bizet, composer, born Paris, 1838.
Richard Byrd, pioneer aviator and polar explorer, born Winchester, Virginia, 1888.
27 Lancelotti Abercrombie, writer, died London, 1838.
28 William Julius Mickle, poet, died London, 1788.

NOVEMBER



5 William of Orange landed at Torbay, Devon, 1688.
6 James Gregory, inventor of the reflecting telescope, born Aberdeen, 1628.
Sir Chandrasekhara Raman, physicist, Nobel laureate 1930, born Trichinopoly, India, 1888.
10 George Charles Bingham, 3rd Earl of Lucan, commander of the cavalry division at Balaklava, died London, 1888.
Karnal Ataturk, First president of Turkey 1923-38, died Istanbul, 1938.
15 Sir William Herschel, astronomer and organist, born Bath, 1738.
18 Frank Dobson, sculptor, born London, 1888.

DECEMBER

3 Octavia Hill, philanthropist, born Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, 1838.
6 Richard Barham, author of *Ingoldsby Legends*, born Canterbury, 1788.
7 Joyce Carey, novelist, born Londonderry, 1888.
10 Giovanni Guarini, poet, born Ferrara, Italy, 1538.
11 James II fled from England, 1688.
14 Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, died Hamburg, 1788.
Richard Redgrave, painter, died London, 1888.
15 Maxwell Anderson, dramatist, born Atlantic, Pennsylvania, 1888.
18 Cuthbert Orde, painter, born Great Yarmouth, 1888.
Dame Gladys Cooper, actress, born London, 1888.
23 Laurence Oliphant, traveller and correspondent of *The Times*, died Twickenham, 1888.



J Arthur Rank, Baron Rank, miller and film magnate, born Hull, 1888.
24 John Morley, Viscount Morley, statesman and writer, born Blackburn, 1838.
25 John Logan, poet, died London, 1788.
Michael Sadleir, writer and publisher, born Oxford, 1888.
Karel Capek, novelist and dramatist, died Prague, 1938.
27 Sir James Sexton, trade union leader, died Liverpool, 1938.

THE CORONATION

From *The Times*, Friday June 29 1838

From an early hour, numbers of persons were to be seen gathering into little knots in the immediate vicinity of Buckingham Palace, and as the day advanced considerable additions to that number continued to be made until the hour of 8 o'clock had arrived, when the whole line one either side of the road leading up Constitution-hill from the New Palace, as well as the inner side of the iron railing which divides St James's from the Green-park, was crowded with well-dressed persons, of whom a very large proportion consisted of ladies. Within the railing there were erected a series of platforms of various elevations, on which standings were obtainable at a charge of 2s 6d per head. This accommodation extended nearly from the Duke of Sutherland's residence up to the triumphal arch opposite to the entrance into Hyde Park, and as far as we were enabled to see, not one was unoccupied. On either side of the arch, and on both sides of the gate, spacious galleries were erected, which were filled principally by elegantly dressed females, many of whom on the arrival of the youthful Sovereign took off their bonnets. It was impossible not to have anticipated where so great an assemblage had congregated that some disturbance would have occurred. Not so in this instance, however, for throughout the whole day not an angry word reached our ears... From 7 o'clock in the morning until the approach of the Royal procession the people found a good deal to admire in the handsome equipages of our nobility and the foreign Ministers, as they passed along, either to take the places allotted to them in Westminster Abbey, or to occupy their proper station in the procession then forming in St James's Park. The Duke of Sussex proceeded in this way to the Palace, and was cheered as he went along by the spectators... We are sure that in whatever part [the procession] was viewed, it must be acknowledged to have been truly magnificent. The gorgeous equipages of the Foreign Ambassadors, the elegant carriages of our own Royal Family, and their richly caparisoned horses, produced an effect so splendid as to render it difficult to give a correct idea of it in any description. But, above all, the presence of our youthful Queen, and the august occasion for which the procession was formed, gave it a charm that could not be surpassed, and made it an object of the highest interest to every native of Britain... The interval between the procession to, and its return from the Abbey, cleared the space in front of the National Gallery to a great extent. But for a short time it became again thronged by the firing of the salute of 41 guns, at the moment that Her Majesty was crowned. The richness and variety of the spectacle it is impossible for words to compass; but those who saw it know how to appreciate it, and no description of theirs can compete with the glorious realities they then witnessed... Under such circumstances Her Majesty entered the Abbey, and immediately a hundred instruments and more than twice as many voices rang out their notes at once, and the loud anthem blended with the applauding sheets of the spectators echoed to the very roofs of the Abbey.

THE TIMES SATURDAY



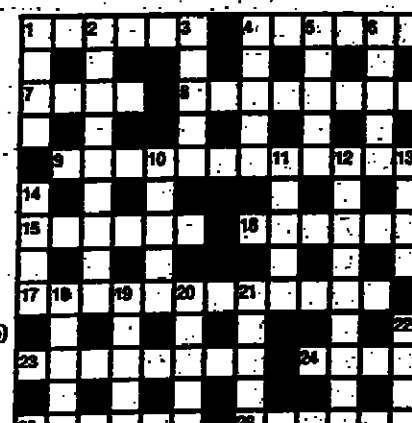
Taking the water

After a holiday season of unrelenting excess, take to the cleansing waters tomorrow as part of *The Times's* expanding attention to travel throughout January. In central Europe the favoured cleansing lotion is water, the purer the better. Jonathan Meades reports on the magical, not to say mystical, marvels of Marnebad. Plus... detailed reports of where to find that elusive European snow

Win £50 in the New Year Jumbo Crossword

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1452

ACROSS
1 Emotionless (6)
4 Close at hand (6)
7 Fortune (4)
8 Alluring (8)
9 Smart London girl (6,6)
15 Bird enclosure (6)
16 Wander (6)
17 London/Victoria Road (6,6)
23 Collaborator (8)
24 Water (4)
25 Pounding tool (6)
26 Danger indication (6)



DOWN
1 Only (4)
2 Belief in magic (9)
3 Condescend (5)
4 Not over (5)
5 Jettison (5)
6 Drinking bout (5)
10 Forestage (5)
11 Commemorative (5)
12 Bizarre (9)
13 Play part (4)
14 Farcical (4)
15 Stir, excite (3)
19 Place within (5)
20 Bombast (5)
21 Camped (5)
22 Serve at table (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1451
ACROSS: 1 Damage 4 Sticky 9 Resolve 10 Roman 11 BOAC 22 Reserve 14 Square dance 16 Constable 23 Suez 24 Throat 26 Constable 25 Hail 26 Sinner 3 Gold Coast 5 Tice 6 Camber 7 Ym 8 George Eliot 11 Bus 13 Squeak 15 Quail 16 Bile 17 Scotch 20 Mount 21 Aisle 23 Woe

John Rae

Let us teach of famous men

Where have all the heroes gone? To hell, as far as one of my boyhood heroes, Marcus Brutus, is concerned, for I have recently discovered that he is in Dante's *Inferno* being eternally chewed by one of Lucifer's three mouths. Of the other heroes — yours and mine — I have no news. From the tales told to children and from the books children are encouraged to read, the heroes of legend and history seem to have vanished.

At the turn of the century the children in the third grade in the public schools of Philadelphia had a prescribed list of heroes to study: Joseph, Moses, David, Ulysses, Alexander, Horatius, Cincinnatus, Siegfried, Arthur, Roland, Alfred the Great, Richard the Lion Hearted, Robert the Bruce, William Tell, Joan of Arc, Peter the Great, Florence Nightingale.

An idiosyncratic choice, you might think, but what is interesting is not the choice but the belief that children would benefit from studying the lives and deeds of heroes. Charles Kingsley thought it so beneficial he wrote a book on Greek heroes for his own children. How many children leaving their primary school today could tell you about Ulysses or King Arthur, or give an account of Roland at Roncesvalles or Florence Nightingale at Scutari?

The disappearance of the heroes of legend and history is not accidental. They have been deliberately removed, pulled from their pedestals like the statues of a former regime. The climax of this iconoclastic hostility occurred in the Sixties when the two great anti-heroic delusions — "All men are equal" and "Love is all you need" — briefly joined hands. To the egalitarians, the very idea of a legendary hero was elitist. And when people were naive enough to believe that love is all you need to overcome the evils of the world, there was no place for what the *Oxford Dictionary*, in a fine phrase, calls "a man who exhibits extraordinary bravery, firmness or greatness of soul".

The attempt to diminish the heroes of history started long before the Sixties and long before the sundering of elite intellectualism between the wars. As far back as 1840 Thomas Carlyle noted that hero-worship was out of fashion. In his book *On Heroes* he complained that he was living in an age that "denies the existence of great men; denies the desirability of great men". He accused small-minded critics of trying to show that great men were merely products of their time, not — as Carlyle believed — the lightning that set their time on fire.

Few people now take Carlyle's view of history seriously, any more than they do the similar view of Friedrich Nietzsche, who argued that historical science should highlight great men as examples, not waste time on academic concerns such as factual detail. Yet the case for children learning from heroes is a good one.

Children need heroes. Psychologically, they need to identify with heroic figures. It gives them confidence that human qualities can endure the worst misfortune. Hearing the story of Joseph or Ulysses, children learn that it is possible to struggle against life's difficulties and emerge victorious. Reading the story of Robert the Bruce they learn that the first defeat need not be final. The example of David tells them that the Goliaths of the world are, not invulnerable.

Heroes are also important to children as a source of values. We hear much about the need to teach values to the young, but because we have forgotten our heroes we are puzzled as to how this should be done. Of two things I am fairly certain. The values that an individual takes through life he learns in childhood, not later; and the values that matter cannot be taught. Values have to be learned by children from the example of adults in whose lives the values are seen to operate successfully.

We may wish that our children could learn their values from us, but we are too close and too fallible. Nor will our children learn worthwhile values from the passing celebrities of the media, sport and public life. As examples to our children, none of us can compete with the great legendary and historical figures.

So it may not be as crazy as it might first appear to suggest that history in primary schools should be based on the ideas of Carlyle and Nietzsche. For eight and nine-year-olds, history should indeed be "the biography of great men" and there should be no distinction between legendary and real figures. What matters with children of that age is not historical truth but the power of the legend to inspire their admiration for true and enduring human values.

Most primary school teachers would disagree. They are suspicious of the cult of personality. They think children should study the lives of ordinary people. In so far as history exists in primary schools it is as a branch of sociology, the children doing projects on the local community or on the lives of children in other lands.

This approach is paved with good intentions but it is based on the needs of the teachers. They need to believe that they are helping to create a better community and a better world. Children need to believe they can survive the world, not improve it. They need a good story, survivors to identify with, heroic ideals to admire. Paradoxical as it may seem to the teachers, Ulysses and King Arthur are more relevant to the needs of the children than the pursuit of good community relations and international understanding. Perhaps it is not too late to rescue the heroes, if not from hell, then at least from oblivion.

The author, formerly headmaster of Westminster School, is director of the Laura Ashley Foundation.

however... Henry Stanhope

Strange shape of things to come

An almanac for 1988, with its important anniversaries, like the Spanish Armada and translation of the Bible into Welsh: January: Nigel Lawson says he is willing to remain Chancellor for at least two more years. Prices tumble again on the Stock Exchange. England lose the bicentenary Test match in Australia and blame it on the unfair honesty of the umpires. British Rail closes down because of frozen points and blames the Met Office for not reminding it that it was winter.

February: Plans are announced for Channel 5 and the entire staff of the BBC apply to join. Gary Hart retires from the US presidential campaign because it is keeping him away from other affairs. Brent schools are told to toss chapatis instead of pancakes on Strove Tuesday and a cook who says she doesn't know the recipe is sacked for racism.

March: Andrew Lloyd Webber announces a new musical based on the life of Princess Michael of Kent. The SDP wins a by-election in Scotland and David Owen tells Rosie Barnes to prepare for government. The Duchess of York takes lessons on flying Concorde. April: John Birt is appointed head of Channel 5 and the entire staff apply to rejoin the BBC. The Bishop of Ripon argues for the ordination of women on the grounds that it will improve the Church's heterosexual image. Lambeth Palace says this is the "kind of discipline and charity which the Archbishop of Canterbury has always exercised." Lord Scarman is appointed to inquire into the row which has closed Brent schools.

May: President Reagan causes a sensation at the Moscow summit by saying that he cannot understand what the Russians have against Star Wars — he has always thought it a very good movie. Mrs Thatcher accuses Neil Kinnock of anti-government in a political broadcast. Kinnock angrily denies. Gary Hart rejoins the presidential campaign after a petition signed by all those involved in his affairs.

June: Roy Hattersley says he intends to stand for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party. A report that he holds the post already is denounced as a Tory smear. James Anderton is made

head of religious broadcasting at the BBC, which denies that this is a political appointment.

July: Peter Walker says he has no ambition to become prime minister. Mrs Thatcher immediately moves him to Northern Ireland. Spain withdraws its ambassador because Mrs Thatcher insists that she beat the Armada. Brent schools reopen after a compromise — children can toss chapatis one year and chapatis the next — then close for the summer holidays. Lord Scarman receives the nation's thanks.

August: England lose the Test series against the West Indies and blame Geoffrey Boycott for not being picked. Trains are cancelled because the rails have buckled in the heat. BR blames the Met Office for not telling it that summer had started. Britain records its biggest ever balance of payments deficit which proves, says Mr Lawson, that the economy is booming.

September: Andrew Lloyd Webber announces a new musical about the life of Gary Hart. Because of a shortage of funds at Covent Garden, Jeremy Isaacs says that he will sing the lead in *Rigoletto* himself. The SDP wins another by-election and Ms Barnes and Dr Owen split over who will be prime minister. October: The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Peter Wright. The Olympics end with Britain winning only one medal, in the women's weightlifting. Andrew Lloyd Webber says he is planning a musical based on the experiences of Laurens van der Post.

November: The US presidential election is won by Mario Cuomo, who wasn't standing. The queue for hospital beds fills the M25, which shows, says John Moore, that the NHS is booming. The Booker Prize is won by Carol Thatcher. Reports that this is a political choice are angrily denied by this year's chairman of the judges, Bernard Ingham.

December: Christmas is banned in Brent schools and Santa Claus is replaced by a figure dressed as Lord Scarman. Rumours that James Anderton is to become the next Archbishop of Canterbury are angrily denied by the Bishop of Ripon. Bernard Ingham is made editor of the *Sun* in the New Year Honours List.



Last night my wife, Daphne, came back half an hour late from her class. She said she'd given a lift home to a rather nice woman who was doing O level Spanish. Apparently this woman and her husband are thinking of retiring to the Costa Del Sol. A pity really, I mean about Daphne being late. If she'd got here sooner she'd have caught Leo standing in his usual place with his back to the electric fire, waving his arms and dropping cigar ash on to the magazines piled on the occasional table.

I've been seeing Leo again for some months now. The first time was at Marble Arch when I was jumping on to a bus and he was getting off. He called out, "You look as if you've seen ghost." The second time was on the escalator at Charing Cross. I was going down and he was going up and he shouted across, "Why didn't you come to the funeral?"

Since then we've often travelled together on the Tube and sometimes he pops into the pub in the lunch hour. Then last night he came round to the flat.

When Daphne arrived home she insisted on opening the landing window even though it was freezing outside. She said there was a smell of tobacco in the hall. That would have been the moment to tell her, but I couldn't find the words.

It was through Daphne that I met Leo. She got to know his wife, Georgina, at yoga classes. They hit it off, Georgina invited her home for a drink and in no time at all the four of us became chummy. I'm not one of those men who feel threatened if their wives have outside interests and I did hold out for a short while, making excuses, telling Daphne to go on her own, but it didn't last long. Georgina was a nice little soul, an eager-beaver sort of woman, neither Daphne nor I detected any signs of instability in the beginning — and she was always telling me how much Leo valued the friendship, how fond he was of me, how he had never before taken the trouble to turn up at night-school to run her home in the car. "He likes bumping into you," she said. Another time she accused me of not wanting to admit it was nice to feel affection for someone of one's own sex. Potty as she turned out to be, she had a point.

Daphne told me, I thought the world of Leo. There was something warm about him, enveloping. I felt good in his company. To be with him was like stepping into a hot bath on a miserable morning in winter when everything's withering in the garden.

Daphne liked him too. He was the kind of man who flirted quite openly with women, snapping his gold lighter under their noses the moment they started rummaging in their handbags for cigarettes, rushing ahead to push back the doors, putting up a great pretence of finding their conversation stimulating. Don't misunderstand me, there was no harm in it. I could tell as well as the next chap that he didn't really like women; he was just keeping his end up, making life easier for himself.

On the face of it we didn't have much in common; different incomes, background, hobbies. He'd inherited a chain of chocolate shops from an uncle and was fairly wealthy, whereas I teach business studies at the local polytechnic; you can imagine the pitance I receive. I don't have any hobbies, I'm too damn tired of an evening to do anything more strenuous than watch the box. Leo's hobby was criminology.

He was quite an expert on murder cases and he'd built an extension on to his living room to house his books. He had thousands of them.

Books apart, he hadn't an atom of taste. That first Christmas he sent a card of a robin sitting on a yule log covered with flecks of snow that glowed in the dark. "It's incredibly vulgar," I told him — we could say anything to one another — and he said, "Since when has snow been vulgar?" He had gold taps in his bathroom.

As for politics, he was practically a fascist. He thought Thatcher was doing a splendid job even if she was female. He believed in stocks and shares, the Common Market, in arming the police, privatisation and the whacking of schoolchildren. I've not forgotten the night he brought that up, after supper but before we got out the cards, because I felt embarrassed for Daphne. "You can't think caning is a good thing, Leo," she protested. "Nonsense," he said. "I agree with Dr Johnson," and she said, "Is he with the health clinic?"

We spent two Christmases together, one at a hotel up north that catered for golfing enthusiasts, and one here at the flat. I couldn't play golf to save my life but it was highly enjoyable walking across the course with Leo chatting away about Ronald True and Palmer and Mrs Maybrick. I didn't altogether approve of his talking in the same fashion in front of the women. It made me a little uncomfortable. I knew as well as the next chap what must have been going on in Haigh's mind when he spotted Mrs Deacon-Durand in the Palm Court of the Onslow Hotel: one doesn't have to spell it out. Nor did I appreciate his constantly dwelling on the hysterical personality of that woman Edmonds in Brighton who put arsenic in the chocolate creams, at least not when Daphne and Georgina were present.

That was the Christmas Georgina had a screaming fit in the bar after she'd been found stumbling about the sandhills in the dark. I never got to the bottom of it although Daphne said it was female trouble. Leo behaved terribly well, putting his arm around her and taking her up to their room, staying with her until she calmed down. I admired him for that. I told Daphne quite frankly that if she had carried on in a similar manner I thought I would have packed my bags, paid the bill and left her to get on with it.

The next Christmas they came here. Well, Daphne wanted it, though really we hadn't the facilities. It's a small flat and we had to borrow chairs to go round the dining room table. One chair to be exact; Leo had a father who up until then hadn't been mentioned. Daphne was a bit peeved. Out of deference to Leo she had already put off her own mother who had been coming to us for years; she had felt her mother, being old and boring, might place a damper on the festivities. Leo boasted that his father was a hundred per cent in control of his mental faculties, something which could scarcely be said of my mother-of-law even in

her prime. He didn't mention his little habit.

I went to a lot of trouble that Christmas. We had a tree in the hall; I can't tell you the job I had hiding the flex for the lights under the carpet. I even stuck a holly wreath on the front door to the flat. I did it all for Leo. Don't forget I had ticked him off the year before about that ghastly robin.

We'd planned dinner for 4 o'clock, so as to cut out tea-time. Leo, Georgina and the old boy arrived at 3.30. When I asked Leo what he thought of the holly, he said, "It's incredibly funeral, given the season." He was being jocular, of course. I thought the father looked perfectly normal. He had a bulbous nose, wore an eye-glass, and was dressed in a very smart dark blue suit, obviously new. I gave him a straight Scotch and he dozed off almost at once. And then I heard Daphne whisper to Georgina, "What are they for?" and Georgina said, "He can't help himself." I took Leo to one side and asked him what the women were talking about.

He told her, "Men need a much larger dosage. It's different for women." If the doctor's wife in Brighton hadn't spat it out Christina Edmonds could have done for her with one chocolate cream, two at the most.

We got out the cards once we'd tidied the table and stacked the dishes in the kitchen. I could play pinochle, as could Georgina and Leo. Daphne has never got the hang of it. She could play bridge, as could Georgina and I, but Leo detested the game. He said it was too much like hard work, so we always played rummy; one of three, two of three, black two's wild, maximum stake 50p.

Actually it must have been quite early when we began the game because that was when I went to the window and drew Leo's attention to the sky. "The day's dying," I said. "Look at that pink." Then I turned round to help Georgina with the chairs. It was the first time I had noticed the colour of her dress. It was blue. And that was the moment Leo said, "Everything dies, pink, blue or purple."

I don't know what was going on in my mind when I sat down at the table. Daphne said later that my hands were shaking. She remarked on it and I apparently complained of feeling cold. Leo turned the electric fire up another notch.

I do know I was abnormally disappointed over the present Leo had given me, the fact that it was such an ordinary gift. There was no earthly reason why I should feel such dissatisfaction with the gift, the year before he had bought me a silk dressing gown.

I must have been thinking about the aftershave lotion all through the first round of the game, and listing all the things I had expected he might give me: classical records, a first edition of something or other, a new colour television; we'd had a black and white one for years and Leo was always telling me what I was missing. I could hardly concentrate on the cards. And then I began talking to him in my head. I accused him of meanness, of not taking the trouble to choose something he knew I would like. I said I had gone to a lot of inconvenience to buy him that biography of Bernard Spillbury, even if I did think his interest in dead bodies, and Spillbury too, for that matter, verged on the obscene. Daphne said later I was glaring at Leo. She kicked at my ankle under the table.

It was during the second game that Leo jumped up and brought

the fruit bowl to the table. It was mostly heaped with apples and tangerines. "Help yourselves," he said. Then he went out into the hall, leaving the door open, and shouted, "Won't be a tick. Back in a jiffy," and stomped down the stairs. Daphne looked a bit startled, and Georgina laughed and said he'd probably gone to fetch a little something from the car. "He's had it hidden in the boot since yesterday," she said. Quite suddenly, still smiling, she burst into tears. Daphne took her off into the bedroom. That's never been explained either, the tears I mean, though at the time I can't pretend I gave it much thought. I don't see how I could have done because I was too busy thinking of the present Leo was going to give me, the gift he'd intended me to have all along. I was almost sure it would be a television set.

The women came out of the bedroom just as he returned with that huge box of chocolates under his arm. His firm manufactured the damn things so they hadn't cost him a penny. Daphne coughed and asked if she could have the satin bow that was glued across the lid. He said she could, later, if she was a good girl. He didn't look at Georgina. She hadn't bothered to blot her mascara and there were runnels of it along the side of her nose.

Leo sat down, took off the lid and kept the box at his elbow. Daphne was on his left hand side, nibbling away from the box. Georgina was on his other side, right next to the chocolates and I was facing him. If Daphne had wanted one she would've had to lean across him. I would have needed to stretch, not that I ever touch sweets. What I'm trying to establish is the fact that only Georgina had direct access.

I can't explain what came over me; you could say I had poisonous thoughts. All I know is that one moment I had four kings and a run of clubs — and then I was watching Georgina's fingers scrabbling among those chocolate creams. It must have been quite hot in the room because her nails had a stain of melted chocolate smeared like excrement across the outline.

Daphne tells me I shouted first, nothing intelligible, and then I half stood, put my knee under the table and tripped it violently towards Leo. It was a heavy piece of furniture and it would have fallen on top of him if he hadn't managed to leap out of the way. He was remarkably agile for his age. It was the apples that did for him, cascading all over the floor and sending him off balance. Even then he was sitting at my cards — I was looking at my cards — and a heart attack five minutes later and when the ambulance arrived he was dead. I don't remember much about it. Daphne said Georgina was screaming and the ambulance men had to lend the old man a blanket because he'd been shaken during the commotion and managed to get out of his trousers. Shock, I imagine.

I tried to explain to Leo last night what I'd been afraid of. Surely he understood I'd been disturbed by all that chat about that woman in Brighton. He looked straight through me.

He left a Christmas card behind. Daphne's bound to see it on the mantelpiece among all the others before she comes to bed. She's the one that turns out the lights in the sitting room. He's chosen that damn robin again, sitting on a yule log flecked with snow that glitters in the dark.

Beryl Bainbridge's novels, famous for their mix of the comic and the macabre, include *The Bottle Factory Outing*, *Sweet William* and *Young Adolfs*. She won the 1977 Whitbread Award for her novel *Injury Time*, and has twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Born near Liverpool, she has lived in London since 1964.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

THE ROAD FROM '68

In 1988, whole books are to be published about 1968. It was the year of the Tet offensive, the Parisian student revolt, the riots which followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, the violence at the Democratic convention in Chicago, the assassination of Robert Kennedy, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia... 1968 was the key year of what, for some people all over the Western world, is a key decade.

The spirit of a decade tends not precisely to match its calendar dates. Some events, which seem very much part of the 1960s, in fact took place in the 1970s, such as the killing by National Guardsmen of student demonstrators at Kent State University, Ohio (1970), and the 1968 activists' greatest triumph, the capture of the Democratic nomination by Senator McGovern (1972) — something from which that once-dominant party has yet to recover. But all can agree that there is no bigger 1960s year than 1968.

There are not many years whose events affected most people and whose date therefore lodged in the world's consciousness for 20 years and longer. 1789 is such a year — and 1815, 1914, and 1945. 1968 is not one of them. Most people would have difficulty remembering anything about 1968, unless they were born during it or unless something equally personal happened to them that year.

There is an exception: the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The Czechs, and all Eastern Europe, remember that well enough. It was an example of true repression, unlike the things against which the Paris young raged earlier in the summer. Western radical youth — true to the new left ideology which theoretically equated the Soviet Union and the United States as similar imperialists — dutifully protested. But for them the protests lacked the spice of being directed against a wrong, perpetrated by the West. Those demonstrations did not last.

So 1968 did not affect most people. It affected the most vocal and opinionated people. This should be borne in mind as the anniversary articles and television programmes succeed one another throughout 1988. 1968 is a year remembered by various elites. The same elites — sometimes the same people, 20 years on — will be doing much of the commemorating in 1988. In any systematic way, the events of 1968 were participated in,

watched, and read about largely by the richest, most comfortable, most bored, most spoilt.

The rioting American blacks did not fall into that category, though American blacks were better off than blacks anywhere else. Nor did the communist-led strikers who halted much of French industry at the height of the student disturbances. But the participation of black rioters in 1968 was hardly systematic. And the French strikers were simply seizing an unexpected chance to push up their wages at a time when the Government looked weak. The French Communist Party wanted no part of any revolutionary action. It could spot a bourgeois frolic when it saw one.

1968 was a matter of elites, except when the people as a whole had a chance to express an opinion. Then they voted overwhelmingly for the Gaullists in the general election which de Gaulle called after weeks of student rioting. And they elected Mr Nixon President in November. So, perhaps, 1968 was confined to so few people that it does not matter? But it does.

Between the two worlds was a Frenchman, Julien Benda, wrote *La Trahison des Clercs*. His theme was the treason against the intellect committed by intellectuals — the clergy — who deny reason, and uncritically embrace ideology. He had in mind mainly the anti-republican, anti-democratic intellectuals of the right. He could also have had in mind the 1968 new left, with its twisting of language — as in its designation of the Soviet Union as "state capitalist", and Western freedom as "repressive tolerance".

1968 saw among much of the Western educated class a decadence and absence of restraint reminiscent of the Weimar Republic. The reason why, unlike Weimar, it did not end in catastrophe was the democratic freedom and economic prosperity created by the system which these educated people were trying to undermine.

Those freedoms, and that prosperity, were valued too much by "the masses". 1968 was not a revolt of the masses, but a revolt against the masses. It might have been a different story had the West not been as prosperous — as it was a different story in Weimar. 1968 — as the year has come to be understood by those who remember it — contributed nothing to civilisation. It has nothing to offer 1988 but a warning.

MISS BHUTTO'S NEW YEAR

The prospect for 1988 in Pakistan is for a battle, long expected, finally to take place. On the one side stand the ruling politicians, placed in power by General Zia and now organized under the banner of the Muslim League; on the other the principal opposition, Miss Bhutto's People's Party. For the last month the early signs of their struggle have been hidden by the publicity surrounding Miss Bhutto's wedding. Now the celebrations are over.

Benazir Bhutto's marriage symbolizes a process of transition for herself and her party. It is part of an attempt to adapt her image to the reality of Pakistan in the late 1980s. In the eyes of many conservative Muslim voters she will have acquired important additional personal status.

More important are the changes she has created in the People's Party's politics. In tune with a worldwide shift in political opinion Miss Bhutto has moved her party rightwards. It now stands for social democracy and not the more left-leaning socialism of her father's time.

Economically, she opposes further land reforms and nationalization. Her foreign policy supports the Western position on Afghanistan and her references to the USA are increasingly sympathetic. At home, she has toned down her criticism of the army, still the present regime's main power base, while seeking to win the support of social groups alienated by her father, the industrialists, traders and urban middle classes.

Meanwhile the Government, headed by General Zia's Prime Minister, Mr Junejo, has still to show it can rise to the problems it faces. Although the Muslim League won a substantial number of seats in last month's local government elections, it still has to sort out its internal factionalism, strengthen its position at district level and establish an identity distinct from the administration it controls. If it fails to do this it runs the risk of withering away, as did

Ayub Khan's party when he fell from power in 1969.

Mr Junejo has also to revitalize his Cabinet. After the November resignation of his Foreign Minister he has yet to appoint a successor. A further four portfolios have been left in the care of ministers already holding other charges. Although such caution in appointing ministers has allowed the Prime Minister to play safe and thus to survive almost three years in office, it has also created stagnation.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Pakistan economy. The country has a weak fiscal base, growing budgetary and balance of payments deficits and rising inflation. The World Bank, Pakistan's largest multilateral aid donor, has given the Government until February to devise a serious programme.

The only way it can do this is to increase the number of people and economic activities liable for tax. Simply increasing the tax burden on industrialists and the salaried middle classes will only drive their money underground. The answer must therefore include lifting the direct tax exemption enjoyed by the large agricultural sector.

Mr Junejo has shown little inclination for this. With elections due in 1990, but widely predicted for a year in advance of that date, his government is in a mood to spend rather than tax. This can only mean bigger deficits and worse inflation.

Until now a mixture of remittances from Pakistanis overseas, American aid, heroin smuggling and "leakages" from the international assistance meant for the Afghan Mujahideen have kept the economy buoyant. But no government can live on windfalls alone. Although Miss Bhutto may not have all the answers, the contrast between a hesitant Mr Junejo and an increasingly determined opponent could be decisive when the political contest comes.

FOURTH LEADER

In Nepal, a performance of *Hamlet* has been banned; it seems that it is deemed offensive to the royal family in that remote kingdom.

There are no details of what in particular is objected to; it is true that, in *Hamlet*, one king has come to a sticky end just before it starts, and another bites the dust in violent circumstances just before it ends, but if that is enough to get *Hamlet* withdrawn in Kathmandu, what on earth would happen there to anyone who proposed to stage *Richard II*, which includes a speech beginning, "For God's sake let us sit upon the ground And tell sad stories of the death of kings?"

For that matter, most of the Histories would be wiped out at a stroke: Henry VI is another king who dies at the hands of his successor, and Richard III (the successor in question) is yet another. Henry IV dies in his bed, though not before he has had a rather nasty quarrel with his son, which would probably be enough to bring the censors down on the play, and King John, though he is not actually done to death, cuts a pretty poor figure.

Henry VIII would be acceptable in Shakespeare's version, but as soon as the students turned to the notes at the back of the book, they would discover the dreadful truth about the number of his wives and the fate so many of them met; they will have to ban that one, too, to be on the safe side.

And what about Shakespeare's mythical kings? If the royal decree strains at the gnat of *Hamlet*, it could hardly swallow the camel of

Lear and *Macbeth*. As for *Cymbeline*, with a name like that the play would probably be banned on the ground that you cannot portray a king of apparently indeterminate sex.

But when the censors get down to work, they will find that virtually every play in the canon must be omitted for one reason or another. *Julius Caesar* is obviously out; assassination of an Emperor is not a dainty dish to set before a king. *Antony and Cleopatra* is full of unfortunate dynastic references, and anyway Antony gets frightfully drunk in Act II, while even the King of the Fairies is subject to frustration throughout most of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; better not.

In *Love's Labour's Lost*, the King eschews the company of women and goes off with three men to set up some kind of all-male establishment; h'm. *Pericles* may actually slip through the censor's net, simply because nobody would dare to tell the King of Nepal what the one in the play actually does; but if, on the assumption that all is well with it, there were a royal visit to the theatre, the ructions that would follow hardly bear thinking about. As for *Titus Andronicus*, there is a case to be made for banning it in England, never mind Nepal, in view of what the Emperor finds in the pie in Act V.

Even the Sonnets ("In Sleep a king, but waking no such matter") could be dangerous. Poor Shakespeare. Still, this business does enable us to answer his most famous question. To be or not to be? Definitely not.

Christian names in 40th year

From the Social Editor of The Times
Sir, Here, in accordance with a practice that began in *The Times* letters column 40 years ago and has been repeated annually ever since, is an analysis of the names given to children whose births or adoptions were announced in the paper during the preceding 12 months.

As previously, there are two lists — one of the top 10 among all the names announced, the other of the top 10 first names. James and Elizabeth again led the first category, respectively for the twenty-fourth and twelfth consecutive years. James and Emma led the second, respectively for the sixth consecutive year and for the first time since 1976, when Emma's nearest rival, Sarah, was only two behind; this year the gap between them widened to 40.

All names	First names
James 380	James 167
William 275	Thomas 136
Edward 275	William 136
Alexander 228	Alexander 103
Thomas 199	George 103
John 192	Charles 103
Charles 173	Nicholas 85
Christopher 173	Benjamin 85
David 129	George 85
George 119	Oliver 85
Elizabeth 241	Emma 91
Louise 181	Charlotte 76
Mary 130	Sophie 76
Harriet 127	Emily 69
Robert 116	Alice 69
Anna 115	John 69
June 114	Lucy 69
Sarah 114	Lucy 69
Emily 98	Lucy 69
Sarah 98	Lucy 69
Victoria 98	Lucy 69
Sarah 98	Lucy 69
Lucy 51	Lucy 69

Figures in parentheses indicate position held in 1986

In the all-names list Christopher is the most notable reappearance (his first since 1961) and Rose is climbing fast (14th at 78, from nowhere). Harriet appears for the first time among the first names, while Georgia (48), Frederick (46), Hannah and Olivia (both 45) narrowly missed making their debuts.

Five thousand, four hundred and seventy-seven births were announced, 156 more than last year and the highest recorded since 1972. Of these, 2,805 were boys, 2,671 were girls and one was announced with no indication of sex. There were 94 sets of twins — 36 of boys, 34 of girls and 24 mixed. A set of quadruplets (two boys, two girls) was announced on February 4.

The numbers of names announced for each child were distributed as follows:

Girls: no name, 286; one, 430; two, 1,485; three, 46; four, 6.
Boys: no name, 320; one, 389; two, 1,265; three, 79; four, 23; six, 1 (Maximilian, Adam Nicholas Julius Angus Casimir).
Yours faithfully,
HELEN BEARD, Social Editor,
The Times,
1 Pennington Street, EL,
December 31.

Form of address

From the Reverend John Ticehurst
Sir, After completing some marriage and baptism returns I was struck by the absence of fruit, flowers and animals from English Christian names.

I can find a Cherry, but never a Plum. But the Cherry itself was a pet name form of Charity, so doesn't really count. I've come across a few Ericas, some Hazels and a Holly, a Daphne and a Heather, an Iris and an Ivy, which is fairly limited botanically. We have Daisy (or we used to) as a pet name, but why no Marigolds or Honeysuckle or Japonicas?

I've heard of a Poppy, but never a Dandelion. And why did the fruit get stuck with Cherries? Why no Grapes or Apricots, Peaches or Pomegranates? The Old Testament was full of Sheep (Rachel) and Bees (Deborah) as girls' names — still with us. Are other countries as limited in their use of flora and fauna as we are?

Boys' names in this country are even more poorly representative of the great world of nature. We have Robin sometimes, but that itself is no more than a remake of Robert that went via a common bird and back again.

Can your readers throw any light on the paucity of English in this way?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN TICEHURST,
The Manse,
Franklyn Avenue,
Braunton,
North Devon.

From Viscount Hampden
Sir, I received six letters this morning. They were addressed as follows: The Right Honourable The Viscount Hampden, The Viscount Hampden, Viscount Lord Hampden, Lord Hampden, Lord Anthony Hampden, and V. Hampden Esq. To complete the straight flush I am Your obedient servant,
HAMPDEN,
Estate Office,
Glynde,
East Sussex,
December 20.

Coming unstuck

From Mrs S. M. Green
Sir, We are the only family always to keep a can of lighter fluid in the house — not because anyone smokes, but in order to remove the residues of sticky price labels which won't come unstuck from goods we have bought?
Yours,
S. M. GREEN,
22 Hardwick Street,
Cambridge,
December 26.

Fears of surprise attack in Europe

From Mr Armen Agnesian
Sir, Far from proposing any kind of Maginot Line either for Nato or the Warsaw Treaty (leading article, December 21), my letter (December 17) advocated "corridors free of all weapons capable of launching a surprise attack". These weapons would naturally include tanks, which played such a key role in Germany's thrust circumventing the original Maginot Line.

In my view it is mostly arms, not troops, that matter if a surprise attack in Europe is to be prevented. A zone free of heavy conventional weapons capable of sudden attack and vast destruction of civilian targets appears all the more important today in view of the emerging sophisticated technologies which, amongst other things, add to the risk of an unauthorised attack.

As to my fears that, following the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) agreement, there was a strong temptation for Nato to renege on the arms race, it would seem that the US decision to begin binary chemical weapon production — clearly designed for use in Europe — would tend to confirm my apprehensions.

Community charge

From Councillor John Cordwell
Sir, Amongst other controversial statements in your Saturday editorial (December 19) on poll tax considerable play is made of this being a charge, not a tax. If this were true then almost everyone could claim to be paying more than they should through being charged for unsolicited services.

Why should the elderly be charged for schools or the young and fit amongst us for home help and homes for the elderly? Why should those who have cars pay to keep public transport going?

Perhaps your long-term answer is that they shouldn't and that all these services should be privatised with tolls on roads, charges for library books, public transport only for those who can afford it.
Yours sincerely,
J. CORDWELL,
Greenlea, Haw Street,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire,
December 20.

From Sir Thomas Padmore
Sir, Your first leader of December 19 ("Cost of local democracy") condemns the poll tax as a bad tax because it takes no account of

I think it is debatable, to say the least, to describe the new generation of "smart" weapons as being defensive in nature. I find it difficult to name any such system that cannot be easily converted for offensive purposes. Quite apart from problems with monitoring such weapons, the real danger would be a mood in Nato to exploit their undoubted advantage and go ahead with a vast conventional build-up.

It may be that "weapons don't breed tension — tension breeds weapons". But the new effective and hardly controllable weaponry of our time has clearly undermined this thesis.

Sophisticated modern weaponry can thus assume a logic and momentum of its own and stampede the policy-makers into war. That is why we must enhance security in Europe by backing arms control with confidence-building measures and not divorce one process from the other.

Yours faithfully,
ARMEN AGNESIAN,
Novosti Press Agency,
4 Zubovski Boulevard,
Moscow,
USSR,
December 28.

ability to pay and may be widely defied. But you reveal to us that it is not really a tax at all and that we can avoid the damage which a bad tax would do by the simple expedient of no longer so calling it or so thinking of it. So let's pretend.

You do not actually tell us why the community charge is not a tax, in spite of its looking like a tax, being popularly called a tax and, surely, when the time comes, feeling like a tax in the paying.

I can think of two possible reasons for your strange view. One is that the revenue raised will be largely used, not for the support of government but for the provision of public services. But that is true also of income tax — and that really is a tax, isn't it?

The other reason might be that you consider that a "tax" must be national and cannot be local. If that be so, it will be a comfort to many (except perhaps the Liberals) since it follows from it that the expression "local income tax" which we all (including you, Sir) bandy about, has no meaning whatever.
Yours faithfully,
T. PADMORE,
39 Cholmeley Crescent,
Highgate, N6.

Sport in 1988

From Mr Sebastian Coe
Sir, Nineteen eighty-eight looks likely to be a crucial year for sport in Britain. It is an Olympic year. It is also a year in which the Government and the major bodies in sport will make decisions about future priorities, policies and organization.

The Sports Council has consulted widely on a review of its strategy for the next 10 years; the Sports Aid Foundation, the British Olympic Association and the Central Council of Physical Recreation have each begun reviews. A few weeks ago the Minister for Sport broadened the review process in an open letter to the Sports Council with various questions about the future.

Now is the time for unity amongst the various bodies and interest in sport and recreation, especially in their response to government. We need to make our case well — which means together. Sport and recreation play a vital part in the fabric and happy purpose of our society; for that part they need (and deserve) public and private support.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN COE
(Vice-Chairman),
The Sports Council,
16 Upper Woburn Place, WC1,
December 30.

Post restraint

From Mr J. Meade
Sir, For some years past I have noticed that the more a country declines in power and status, the larger and more florid are the postage stamps it produces.

As we are told that this country has currently not only halted her decline but is daily growing in strength and prestige, may we now look forward to the postal authorities issuing smaller, duller postage stamps within the near future?
Yours faithfully,
J. MEADE,
Bod Liff,
Gors Avenue,
Holyhead, Anglesey,
December 23.

A handicap

From Mr P. A. Gaskill
Sir, The account of Mr D. B. Jenkin's dilemma in greeting a lady (December 18) prompted me to consider when I last saw a gentleman doff his headgear.

Would it be premature to suggest that this charming practice is no longer *de rigueur*; that it is, in fact, old hat?

Yours faithfully,
P. A. GASKILL,
9 Valley Terrace,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
December 18.

From Mrs G. S. Sayer
Sir, It's all right, Mr Jenkin, you may walk on.

No woman of note recognises a gentleman wearing a woollen hat. Any question of salutation is therefore academic.
Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN SAYER,
The Old Police House,
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire,
December 19.

Exhibition site still needed?

From Dr M. J. Denton
Sir, The exhibition of the International Textile Machinery Association (Ima) is held every four years and, in Europe, only the Hannover, Milan and Paris sites are large enough to accommodate it. The 1987 Ima attracted more than 150,000 visitors, plus 18,000 exhibitors' staff, from all over the world to see the 1,270 displays, occupying 145,300 square metres of stand area. For the duration of the exhibition it was difficult to find a hotel room in or near Paris.

A show of this size and technological excellence gives a major boost to the international prestige of the machinery industry of the host country and provides a considerable source of income for the local transport industry, hotels, restaurants and tourism.

Is it not deplorable that there is nowhere in the UK where such an exhibition can be held? The National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham offers barely half the space occupied by Ima at the Porte de Versailles. This is a matter that surely deserves much more urgent and serious consideration than seems to be given to it at present.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL DENTON,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Textile Industries,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
December 29.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 1 1788

John Walter, the paper's founder, explained the change in our title from *The Daily Universal Register*.

THE TIMES.

Why change the head?
This question will naturally come from the Public and we, the *TIMES*, being the PUBLIC's most humble and obedient servants, think ourselves bound to answer.

All things have heads, — and all heads are liable to change —

Every sentence and opinion, advanced and supported by Mr. Shandy, on the influence and utility of a well chosen surname, may be properly applied, in showing the recommendations and advantages which result from placing a striking title page before a book, or an inviting HEAD on the front page of a NEWS-PAPER.

A HEAD so placed, like those heads which once ornamented *Temple-Bar*, or those of the great *Attorneys*, or great *Contractors*,... never fails of attracting the eyes of passengers — though indeed we do not expect to experience the kindly shown to these great exhibitors; for, probably, *THE TIMES* will be pelted without mercy.

But then a head with a good face, is a harbinger, or gentleman-like, that often strongly recommends even *DOLNESS*, *FOLLY*, *IMMORALITY*, or *VICE*. — The immortal *LACE* gives evidence to the truth of this observation. That great philosopher has declared that, though repeatedly taken in, he never could withstand the solicitations of a well drawn title-page — authority sufficient to justify us in assuming a new head, with a new set of features, but not with a design to improve, for we flatter ourselves the HEAD of *THE TIMES* will not be found deficient in intellects...

To advert to our first position. *THE UNIVERSAL REGISTER* has been a name as injurious... as *TRISTRAM* was to Mr. Shandy's Son — but *OLD SHANDY* forgot he might have rectified, by confirmation, the mistake of the person at baptism — and with the touch of a Bishop have changed *TRISTRAM* to *TRISMEGISTUS*.

THE UNIVERSAL REGISTER, from the day of its first appearance, has like *TRISTRAM* suffered from innumerable casualties, both laughable and serious arising from its name, which on its introduction, was immediately curtailed of its fair proportion, by all who called for it, the words *Universal* being universally omitted, and the word *Register*, only, being retained. "Boy — bring me the Register" — the waiter answers, "Sir, we have not a library — but you may see it at the New Exchange Coffee-house." "Then I'll see it there," answers the disappointed politician, and he goes to the New Exchange, and calls for the Register; upon which, the waiter tells him he cannot have it, as he is not a subscriber...

For these and other reasons the parents of the *UNIVERSAL REGISTER* have added to its original name, that of the

TIMES.

Which being a monosyllable, bids defiance to corruptors and mutilators of the language —

THE TIMES. What a monstrous name! Granted — for *THE TIMES* is a many-headed monster, that speaks with an hundred tongues, and display (sic) thousand characters, and in the course of its transformations in life, assumes innumerable shapes and humours...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

In some foreign swamp

A scant three hours before the deadline, *The Continental* (BBC2) romped home with the coveted Golden Turkey award for 1987. In reaching their decision, the judges were particularly impressed by the following points: (1) Though set in a disco in Spain, this play played location footage and studio scenes with consummate clumsiness; (2) though billed as a comedy drama, it had neither plot nor identifiable jokes; and (3) even the actors looked embarrassed at times.

As we know from his recent series *The Ritz*, to which this one-off farmed a postcard, John Godber's idea of a television script is no different from his idea of a stage play. Godberland is a murky swamp where sticky sodalities of cardboard cutouts gather to swap dim clichés.

Periodically, one or other of them gives voice to an emotional crisis whose cause remains unintelligible. Sex appears to be much on their minds — if that is not too strong a term.

Last night's prize effort was a marvel of fidelity to this formula, from the obligatory body-building contest to the indispensable wimp-misogyny of the dialogue. Some unimaginable inducement dragged Frank Bruno and the voice of Harry Commentator into the mess. One knew when it was over because the credits rolled.

Sensible viewers will have kept their tubes cool until *The Motown Story* (Channel 4), an exhaustive and densely knit portrait of the Tamla Motown hit factory in Detroit. Anyone who spent sleepless nights in the 1960s worrying about The Supremes' hair must have been relieved to see that Mary Wilson is still the prettiest of the three, while Diana Ross more and more resembles a witch.

Occasionally the interviews cried out for scissors, as when Smokey Robinson explained that "Tears of a Clown" is about this guy who, um, acts happy on the outside while all the time, you see, he is actually unhappy inside. But this was an impressive compilation of candour and egotism interspersed with archive footage of old-time tellypop.

Martin Cropper

Nice? It's a dirty word

Thin and sharp, Feargal Sharkey, former leader of the Undertones, is a pop singer for the Eighties. David Sinclair found that the lessons learnt with the group are used well

Since the dissolution of the Undertones in 1983, Sharkey's sullying high-pitched voice has carried hits including "A Good Heart" and "You Little Thief" to the upper echelons of the chart, while his debut solo album, *Feargal Sharkey*, released in 1985, sold more than two million copies worldwide. This is good going, especially compared with the Undertones, whose five-year and four-album earnings mustered total sales of perhaps 250,000.

Lack of commercial success aside, the Undertones have often been eulogized as a group that gave perfect and spontaneous expression to adolescent punk-pop values in their purest form. But Sharkey, who talks with fast articulate ease, is swift to disabuse anyone of this essentially romantic view.

"I vividly remember the first week of recording our first album; we spent 12 hours a day for at least six or seven days trying to get a drum sound together. If we didn't care, why did we spend all that time doing it? Why did we spend three weeks trying to get the last album cover (*The Sin Of Pride*) to look right? It was extremely disheartening to read in all the reviews that 'the Undertones don't care'. Did they think it all happened by accident?"

Sharkey was born, the second youngest of his electrician father's seven children, in Londonderry in 1958. He received a strict Roman Catholic education at a school run by a religious organization called the Christian Brothers, where he acquired "six or seven" O levels. He had a happy childhood, despite the troubles in the Province.

"People don't walk around in tin hats with gas masks in their pockets. You get on with day to day life, and it becomes normality, sad to say. You try to make the best of things that you can."

Even so, he moved his own family to London five years ago, when his son, Sean, was one year old.

"I didn't want him to be brought up in that kind of environment, and ending up at 17 being a car mechanic who hasn't got a job. Seeing the way the rest of my friends have ended up... I think it's disgusting that, basically, life has given up on them and therefore they're about to give up on life."

That Sharkey avoided such a fate himself may be ascribed to the gift of his extraordinary voice, and to a

copy of the Undertones' first, self-financed single, "Teenage Kicks", which reached the DJ, John Peel. Peel plugged the record with sustained gusto on his Radio 1 show and in 1978 the band secured both a record contract and a first hit with the song.

The idea of the Undertones as pop's answer to the Bash Street Kids became ossified at around the time of the group's biggest hit, "My Perfect Cousin", and from then on, neither their audience nor the critical establishment would allow the band to grow up. Perhaps as a reaction to an image that eventually became an artistic straitjacket, Sharkey has systematically nurtured a solo career in which he is anything but the innocent.

Although he is still managed by Andy Ferguson, who managed the Undertones, Sharkey personally entered negotiations with most of the major record companies before signing a contract with Virgin and keeps very close tabs on all decisions that affect him. "I find business detail stimulating. I'm not at all afraid of it. I wanted to understand exactly what my recording contract was about. I still enjoy going into Virgin and having a good argument, because the end result is better. They want to sell millions of records, but they're interested in the music too."

He attended directors' courses at the Actors Centre in Covent Garden and in California, in order to understand fully the jargon and techniques involved in video making. He admits that this makes him a hard person to work with. "At the end of the day I have to live with the consequences of what I put out, and I'm not prepared to be manipulated. I still hire a [video] director and a [record] producer, but I hire people that I think are going to be as strong as me and will argue with me. There has to be that friction. 'Nice', to me, is a dirty word; 'nice' and 'mediocre' go hand in hand."

He winces at the suggestion that his solo career has led him to the musical arena inhabited by artists such as Paul Young and Alison Moyet: "God, no! Are you kidding?" — but his new album, *Wish*, is nevertheless another sophisticated catalogue of soul and Motown-inspired themes written for a modern pop audience.

"The sort of singers that I've always admired are people who made me believe that they had



Feargal Sharkey: "I still enjoy going into Virgin and having a good argument, because the end result is better."

experienced what they were singing about: Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson. I've tended to become disenchanted with singers over the last few years. They all sound like they're standing in front of a microphone with a lyric sheet that they first looked at five minutes ago."

Sharkey now enjoys a jet-setting lifestyle far removed from the days of his youth. He spent the first nine months of 1987 recording his album in Los Angeles, where he lives in a house with a verandah overlooking the "Hollywood" sign. One of the guests musicians was Keith Richards, who dropped in to play guitar on "More Love".

The album completed, Sharkey

decamped to London, where he stayed in Hampstead, before a planned retreat to Amsterdam for a spell in the new year. He was divorced last month — "Just one of those things" — and has a Puerto Rican girlfriend called Rebecca.

Although he has drastically curtailed a 60-a-day smoking habit, his wiry 5ft 11in frame still weighs less than nine stone. He reads enthusiastically — Stephen King, a biography of Salvador Dali and *Spycatcher* in the last few weeks — and has inherited from his father a fascination for electronics which enables him to keep up with all the latest musical equipment technology.

"I thought of music as a serious career right from the time of the first pressing of 'Teenage Kicks' in Ireland. That's when I realized that music meant so much to me. Because of lack of money and experience we ended up with 2,000 records that bore very little resemblance sound-wise to what we had done in the studio. Everyone in the band hated it, because we thought it was so bad. I was so depressed for about a week afterwards that I seriously thought about taking those records and throwing them in the river."

Feargal Sharkey's single, "More Love", is released next Monday and his album, *Wish*, on February 2, both on Virgin Records.

CONCERTS

Carnegie gets it taped

In recent weeks, Carnegie Hall has become a recording studio of sorts, with three major events taped live for commercial release. Indeed, at the first of the three, a gala recital by Luciano Pavarotti and John Voynata for the benefit of the hall fund, one often felt like an intruder, allowed to sit in on the session but greeted mostly with indifference by the star performer. Though the fare was choice familiar (Italian songs and arias, Schubert and Liszt songs), the tenor seemed even more cautious than he usually does in recital, his grandiose gestures directed not to the audience but to the camera at the back of the hall.

Only in a magnificent Schubert "Ave Maria" and a generous allotment of encores did Pavarotti give up his study and communicate something to the audience. The difference proved stunning.

A week later Pavarotti appeared with Leontyne Price, Marilyn Horne, Samuel Ramey, Yo-Yo Ma, and Murray Perahia in a concert conducted by Leonard Bernstein and James Levine in aid of care for AIDS victims. Some \$1.7 million was raised, with more to accrue from radio syndication, and from the Deutsche Grammophon recording.

Some of the performances proved truly treasure — most notably, a gripping account of Ives's *Unanswered Question*, with both conductors participating. Levine also led an excellent performance of Bernstein's *Camille* Overture, and both played the Andante from Mozart's Sonata, K 448, for two pianos.

Finally came the New York debut recital of the 35-year-old pianist Vladimir Feltsman (November 11), recently granted permission to leave Russia after an eight-year struggle, and taken immediately to America's political hoopla, the event proved disappointing. With the opening Allegro moderato of Schubert's A major Sonata, D 664, played *adante* (and listlessly and colourlessly at that), the sublime Andante second movement became merely another bit of the same drab cloth.

James R. Oestreich



What would Feydeau have thought? Marie Steen as the ravishing and coquettish Clarisse, played as a Baby Doll feminist

Nudes versus the prudes

PARIS THEATRE

Mais n'te promène pas donc toute nue!

Théâtre Gérard Philipe

Fortunately, Feydeau farces are solidly built. If they were not, it is doubtful whether *Mais n'te promène pas donc toute nue!* (English title: For God's sake get dressed!) could stand up to Gérard Philipe's brutal, re-analysis of the work, in a new production at the Théâtre Gérard Philipe. As it is, this originally lightly-clad romp around the taboo of nudity in *la société bourgeoise* at the turn of the century, staggers gamely around stripped to the buff, under the mocking blows of Gélas's derisive direction.

The scenario is much as Feydeau wrote it. One exceed-

ingly hot summer's day the ravishing Clarisse scandalizes her député (MP) husband Ventroux, by parading in a state of cooling undress in front of their son Auguste. She takes umbrage at his prudery and takes her revenge by playing the coquette with his most hated political rival, Hochepaix. Topping up the high spirits, and conveniently there to usher in the co-incidences, is Victor the butler.

Out of this simple tale of sex, son and sex, Gélas extracts a vicious social comment. Clarisse, convincingly made flesh by Marie Steen, is a Baby Doll feminist. Ventroux, dynamically given breath by Jean-Max Jalin, is a lecherous, society sucking leech. The innocent Auguste is a cruelly manipulated caricature of the mentally handicapped, played with disconcerting realism by Max Aulivier.

Victor hides his voyeurism behind a feather duster, flicked by Hervé Perard with sinister disdain. The Kaiser-

like Hochepaix, portrayed with Groucho Marx aplomb by Jean-Marc Avocat, is the only character to escape with his dignity shredded rather than annihilated.

Gélas also signs the design. Instead of the more usual deep pile velvet excesses of the *Belle Époque* he constructs a crude, riveted metal cylinder pierced all over with grubby portholes. These are individually lit from behind and seemingly controlled by a large wheel. Congratulations are due to lighting designer Jean-Louis Cannaud for the exhilarating effects he creates when those on stage give the wheel a twist.

There is also a massive metal flap which is opened and closed with noisy regularity to reveal the metal-barred, blue-skied world outside. Adding a touch of homeliness is a central tubular tower of red plush (later seen to conceal a sadistic looking caged, spiral stairway).

Gélas is best known as the founder of the Théâtre du

Chêne Noir, one of Avignon's most successful and creative permanent companies. A playwright of some note, Gélas' latest play *La Barque* (The Small Boat) is a deadly black comedy in which a willing victim sails away to the suicide of her dreams (recently translated into an ear-chilling BBC radio play).

The same cold creative breath can be felt on the Paris suburban stage of the Gérard Philipe in his treatment of *Toute nue*. But here, the hidden sociological mindfield through which Gélas is leading his audience is not always evident — until the closing moments of the work.

As the farcical activities wind themselves up to a degrading physical whirling — Gélas's use of the spiral staircase is visually stunning — the action disintegrates into a surrealistic tableau of war and the bloody reality of the coming years. The work was first performed in 1912.

Diane Hill

High action into low tech

THEATRE

James Bond — The Panto ICA

The Zap Club from Brighton are on to a good thing in converting Bond into low-tech, so that the great wrecker has to make do with toy cars and bathroom speedboats, thus clearing the way for world domination by a pair of American evangelists.

Unfortunately, Peter McCarthy and Tony Haase are not content with that, but go on to attempt a low-tech operation on Bond himself. In the hangdog person of John Dowie he first appears delivering a demoralized ballad to his own pub piano accompaniment, before enthusiastically joining in the demolition of his own legend.

"With English humour", somebody remarks later on, "you say the opposite of what you mean, and it is humorous."

That more or less sums up the show. Bond hates being Bond; and, at the first encounter with a Brisbane feminist who addresses him as "Jim", he promptly trades in

his licence to kill and enters the unknown world of cooking, shopping, and queuing for the bus.

There could have been a few laughs in that; but the authors have also gone on to confuse the Bond adventure yarn with the tricky spy mysteries of Len Deighton where nothing is what it seems, character least of all. So the luscious feminist turns out to be quadruple or quintuple agent seducing 007 into becoming a cowardly pacifist bystander, thus clearing the way for world domination by a pair of American evangelists.

There is some neat pantomime, and quite a few good lines, including the Evangelists' anthem, "There's one born again every minute". Mr Haase and Robin Driscoll do not sing it very well, but they excel vocally as helicopters, passing cars, and submarines.

The whole enterprise is doomed by the fact that the Bond films contain their own inbuilt self-satire; and the attempt to ridicule them by means of a unrelated genre leaves them entirely unscathed.

For much of the time, you are left with the depressing sight of actors doing silly things until they get a bit of plot to hang on to. At one moment Q makes the all too



Best barrel for a burlesque Bond: John Dowie finds it a far plausibly complaint that he feels awkward standing there with nothing to hold. Exit Money Penny, to bring him a nice comforting prop. She is away a long time, while the company stand there making faces with nothing to say. Intended as an embarrassment gag, what it projects is

the reality of acute embarrassment. This is an extreme, but typical example of the company's defective comic timing, and their misunderstanding of the rules of theatrical confusion.

Irving Wardle

Poetic, but a little too reverent

RECITAL

Peter Frankl Wigmore Hall

This is the perfect time of year for any pianist to choose to give a London recital, there being hardly anything else in the way of serious music going on.

Nevertheless, Peter Frankl has a following large enough to enable him to draw the crowds, as he did here, whenever he performs. He is an honest and experienced musician whose playing is blessed with a personality which, though individual, enhances the music rather than overwhelming it.

On this occasion he chose Schubert and Chopin, and it must be said that his restraint in Schubert's music made it seem as if he held it in just a little too much reverence.

He is not the kind of pianist who is comfortable with the cerebral approach of, say, a Brendel, and his subdued dynamic contrasts and unchanging tone-colours in the first of the three *Klavierstücke* D946, tempered rather than transcended that piece's considerable drama. Likewise the third piece lacked sufficient thrust and power and contained all too much delicacy.

But the second piece suited his mood better; this was subtle, private music making which for once made one yearn

for a seat closer to the platform.

Perhaps in the circumstances it was as well that Frankl next played the six *Moments Musicaux*, D780, though these are sometimes supposed to be.

The ones that Frankl related most were the third, in F minor, bright and crisp as nothing in the recital had been thus far, and the last, whose extraordinary and exquisite harmonic twists were seemingly left suspended in mid air. With such poetic playing, it was evident that his personality was beginning to bloom.

If continued to do exactly that in his Chopin. He was obviously less inhibited than hitherto in the Polonaise, Op

26 No 1, while in the set of four Mazurkas, Op 30, he achieved an impressive variety of mood shading, darkly intense in No 2, grandiose and confident in No 3. The second of the Op 26 Polonaises elicited playing of real physical power, as did the terrifying rousades of the *Andante spianato* and *Grand Polonaise*, Op 22.

Alas, I cannot end without remarking on the nobleness of the audience. How can people bear to embarrass themselves by coming to concerts with uncontrollable coughs? And why bring along a persistently whispering child obviously more interested in the adventures of Tin-Tin than in music making?

Stephen Pettitt

FRIDAY PAGE

Mrs T's prime time

On Sunday Margaret Hilda Thatcher will carve a new niche in the record books when she becomes the longest continuously serving Prime Minister this century. The date is no doubt firmly marked in her personal calendar: eight years and 244 days in office, beating the previous record held by Lord Asquith.

But even after so long Margaret Thatcher remains an enigma: the ultimate embodiment of feminist achievement, but emphatically not a feminist. She seems to have succeeded partly because she was not encumbered with the feminist mantle, which has dragged down so many women attempting to pull others up with them.

So is her victory also one for womanhood? Has her continuing triumph proved a vital role model to spur us all to greater achievement? Or has she done, as her bitterest critics argue, less for her sex than any male prime minister would have dared?

We put this question to British women in all spheres of influence, and came up with an intriguing portrait of a paradox.

Fay Weldon
Novelist

"I think she is good for women simply by existing — to prove that women can be prime minister. Perhaps that overrides everything else. It's something she can't help doing. Merely by existing she's good for all little girls at school. But other than that I fear I can see almost nothing she has done for women."

Maureen Lipman
Actress and author

"Does she even realize she's a woman? Her entire *raison d'être* seems to be to get women back to the scullery, where she was. She doesn't have any of the intuitive, caring qualities traditionally associated with women, but the awful thing is that one has to admire the woman. She's taken advantage of everything the decade has to offer: clothes, make-up, media — she looks better than she ever did. I canvassed against her in Finchley for the Labour Party last election and was torn apart. The one thing I can't forgive her for is being such a bad actress..."

Alice Thomas Ellis
Novelist

"What has Margaret Thatcher done for women? Very little. I don't see how a woman could have sent those people off to the Falklands War — I couldn't have done it. She's not one of us. It's difficult, though, I don't utterly dislike her. She doesn't inspire loyalty from other women. If she was the netball team captain I would not have played well."

Mary Archer
Scientist

"She's both a role model and an anti-role model: she's such a strong woman and so striking that people react violently either for or against her. But I don't feel that women should go in for role models generally."

Do British women have cause to celebrate Margaret Thatcher's latest achievement this weekend? Victoria McKee investigates



Portrait of a paradox: has Margaret Thatcher done less for her sex than any male prime minister would have dared?

Sue Townsend
Playwright and author

"I know more poorer women since Margaret Thatcher took over, and there doesn't seem to be much hope for them. There are large communities of poor people and it's mainly the women who bear the burden of trying to juggle the money. I feel she's done a great disservice to women. She's the type of woman who makes cowards of men, the authority figure — the headmistress, the bus conductress — She frightens me."

Eather Rantzen
Broadcaster and founder of the Childline charity

"I think she has done an enormous amount for women — and I say that not as a Tory. I think she has allowed little girls to dream. It's very difficult to think of a woman who could lead the Labour Party. I think that the great women leaders such as Golda Meir and Mrs Gandhi have shared a single-minded, ruthless pursuit of what they believe is best. Maybe it's a ferocious maternalism, maybe women are like that. If you disagree with them then you do so profoundly, but Mrs Thatcher also seems to inspire an extraordinary loyalty. When I've done my street interviews about her, even those who don't agree with her politics find themselves admiring her courage and skill. Any woman who holds down a difficult job is making the progress of all women much easier."

Joanna Foster
Chairman designate of the Equal Opportunities Commission

"I think she's shown that anything's possible for women, and she's got there on her own merits and hard work and skills, which is wonderful. However... it would really be excellent if she could take a more positive stand and use her leadership role to actively enable other women to develop their potential skill and talents as well as being able to manage their families because I believe both are important. We often say in our organization that women should be 'gardeners' bosses' bringing other women up behind them. It's an earthy metaphor, but I think Mrs Thatcher should become more of a gardener boss."

Patricia Dunbar
National chairwoman of the Institute of Home Economics

"She's been a very positive influence. There have always been achievers and always will be but she's shown women that they can go into any job without having money and background — even though it does help to have a successful husband."

Margaret Forster
Novelist

"She has confused other women, that's what she's done. She's confused the feminist picture just as it was becoming clearer: along came Margaret Thatcher who in her deeds is patently anti-feminist but in herself is such an excellent advertisement for the cause!"

Claire Rayner
Agony aunt and author

"What she does is as a politician. Perhaps those women around the Stock Exchange would say she has done a lot for them, but basically she's done very well for people of her frame of mind — whatever their gender."

Mary Whitehouse
President, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

"I think she's been a very positive role model in that she's been her own woman and hasn't tried to be a man or imitate one. I met her first when she was Minister for Education and I have found she's very much a woman at heart and cares deeply about what happens to children and families. She pays no service to this idea of a standardized female, and I admire that."

The pit bull effect

I asked an American colleague of mine what he considered to be the most significant news story of the year, intimations of Gorbachev and the Big Crash dancing in my head. "Pit bull terriers," he said.

I took his point. Last year the American media had a fine time getting all steamed up about the dangers of pit bull terriers. Coverage was so intense that the breed acquired the intrinsic viciousness of scorpions and the temperament of Bengal tigers.

At first I was puzzled. I had barely seen a mention of these dogs in my previous 30 years of newspaper reading. Had there suddenly been a conspiracy among pit bull terriers to go on a rampage? Or had there previously been a conspiracy among the media to keep quiet about this problem?

In fact, I think the story illustrates very well the hysteria that grips the Press on occasion. The Press may have an attack about hula hoops or child abuse, its hysteria independent of the intrinsic value of a given issue. In this sense, the media shows a splendid impartiality.

Hysteria, of course, have their own momentum and politics. Last year's coverage of Aids is a case in point. In spite of the relatively low number of people suffering from the illness, especially when compared to problems from heart disease to cancer, it was clearly the winner hands down. This was perfectly legitimate in one sense since Aids was the new boy on the street with a novelty value. Still, didn't you get a little concerned about the mix of fact and "faction" in the approach to it?

"Aids doesn't discriminate" says the billboard I passed on the way to Heathrow, but isn't that fiction — pure if not simple? The "democratization" of Aids (to borrow columnist George Will's phrase) seems to me to be both morbid and hysterical. Technically speaking, a virus doesn't discriminate, but then neither do knives or machetes. Still, you are more likely to get stabbed walking down a badly lit pathway in Tower Hamlets than during an evening stroll on Sloane Street.

The figures on Aids recently released in Canada and the United States show virtually



BARBARA AMIEL

no cross-over from the high risk categories to the heterosexual population. The "exploding" American epidemic only exists if one includes newly arrived Haitians and Africans.

Two smaller stories intrigued me last year. The first concerned the pregnant mother faced with a court application by local authorities and social workers to take away her then unborn child. Two babies of the woman had died in hospital, two healthy children were living with her.

We seem to have created a system in which one can attack the family on quasi-criminal grounds without the

"The hysteria that can grip the Press is independent of the intrinsic value of a given issue"

inconvenience of criminal proceedings and the rigorous safeguards of criminal standards of evidence for the accused. Shielding an accused abuser from the child testimony in court is a sure way to create in the jury's minds the psychological presumption that the child has something to fear from a person who is technically innocent until proven guilty. The old adage that it is better for a hundred guilty persons to go free rather than one innocent man to be convicted has now been stood on its head.

In a similar vein I had some difficulty with a case in which

a Mr Justice Jupp was faced with a man who had raped his former wife twice. The wife urged the court not to punish him. The judge settled on a suspended sentence of two years. This incensed various women's groups who said it was "absolutely outrageous".

Rape offences on a number of levels. As human beings it offends us all simply because it is such a gross violation of one's person. The psychological disgust at rape may be even more difficult for men to deal with than women: after all, every woman is in some intimate relationship to a man whether she is his daughter, sister or mother.

All the same, I am not sure that I can join the chorus of women who feel that spouses ought to be able to accuse one another of rape. Sexual intercourse is an experience that ranges from the ecstatic to the mortifying depending on the partners' subjective evaluation of each other. But marriage is a voluntary bond of which sex is an integral part. The issue of consent could become somewhat murky with a wife saying: "We had lovely sex on Monday and Tuesday but on Friday he raped me."

Of course, marriage has never implied perpetual consent in the sense of giving the husband conjugal rights enforceable outside the ordinary sanctions of criminal law. Marital violence ought to be treated with the severest penalties available. But surely there is a difference between rape by a stranger and rape by a familiar and legal sexual partner who may legitimately assume consent?

These weighty issues will remain with us, to be chewed over in 1988 at great length. For myself, I intend to try to stick to the one new year's resolution I make as a journalist each year — with varying degrees of success. Last year I mumbled something about not falling prey to fashionable hysterias and then I shortened all my skirts to take them four inches closer to my waistline. This year I resolve to shorten my columns. Economy, as George Orwell pointed out, is a mark of quality as well as of style. A happy, prosperous and economical new year to all.

MONDAY

'Tis the season to go shopping... Why are we sold on sales — and whatever happened to the 'I'm Backing Britain' brigade?

habitat
SALE
NOW ON

Soft Furnishings Department

40% off
selected bedlinens and fabrics

Kitchen Department

50% off
perfect prices on seconds china

Furniture Department

10% off
all bedroom, dining and occasional furniture

Special upholstery bargains in all stores.

and hundreds of special offers including:

- 40% off selected tiles
- 50% off selected door furniture
- £2 off Rowenta irons
- 40% off selected vases

■ A STOREHOUSE PLC COMPANY

HEAL'S SALE

NOW ON
OPEN NEW YEARS DAY
FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS

Up to 25% off most ranges of Upholstery
Up to 20% off most ranges of Dining Room and Storage furniture
Up to 20% off Hulsta & Moser Fitted Living & Bedroom furniture

Special Offers on Childrens furniture, Bedroom furniture, Sofabeds & Heal's handmade Beds
Major Savings in all departments including Lighting, Linens, Fabrics & Rugs

Special Purchases of less than perfect Linens, China & Glassware at greatly reduced prices
Up to 50% off the normal price of shop soiled & slightly damaged merchandise in most departments

INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

Subject to status — minimum loan value £200.
Ask for written details at our stores (Licensed Credit Brokers).
All offers subject to availability.

■ A STOREHOUSE PLC COMPANY

All girls together

"We have a strong feeling that women who graduate from women's colleges tend to be considerably more outspoken and aggressive in taking on whatever they want to do in the world. They graduate with a higher self-esteem."

So says Mary Maples Dunn who, as president of America's world renowned women-only Smith College, you may expect to be slightly biased in favour of single-sex education for women. But when you consider some of Smith's old girls — feminists Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan, Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, Julia Childs and Sylvia Plath — you have to concede that she may have a point.

Many of the 2,600 women who come to Smith (never Smith's) on its 125-acre campus in the heart of New England, do so not only for its much admired liberal arts education programme, but also precisely because the college has resisted the trend to go co-educational.

According to Dunn, the number of women-only colleges in the States has dropped from more than 200 to around 80. In Britain, too, the move away from single-sex colleges has been marked. The University of London no longer has any women-only colleges — Royal Holloway and Bedford have merged and gone co-educational. At Oxford, St Anne's, Lady Margaret Hall and St Hugh's now admit men, leaving Somerville and St Hilda's, along with New Hall and Newnham at Cambridge, and St Mary's and Trevelyan College at Durham as the only all-women colleges in Britain.

Dunn says Smith is unlikely to change its admissions policy, and she urges other women's colleges to stick to their guns: "I can see why

Are single-sex colleges really the stuff smart, successful women are made of?



Resolve: Mary Maples Dunn

men's colleges in the States became co-educational. They could see ahead to a decline in the number of college age students and realized it would make sense for them to increase the pool of students available to them.

"Also they have been affected by the women's movement a bit and some of them said — which infuriated women of course — that women would have a civilizing influence on men."

Dunn is sure that Smith — like other women's colleges — offers distinct advantages. "We give women opportunities for education without any subtle obstacles being put in their way. Take science for instance. Nearly a third of women in women's colleges will major in maths or one of the sciences. In co-educational colleges the number is only 20 per cent. Why is there this difference?"

"We provide a situation where women are the preferred citizens. It's a beneficial experience for them finding out what it's like to be the most important people."

Dunn was herself educated at a co-ed college, William and Mary. She married her husband Richard, currently the Harmsworth professor at Oxford, in 1960 and they have two daughters, now 21 and 23.

A four-year course at Smith costs about £10,000 a year but Dunn stresses that everything is done to make a Smith education available to everyone. "We offer financial aid packages. About 43 per cent of our students get grants."

Smith can afford to be choosy about its students. Each year the college offers places to about half of the 2,000 or so women who apply. About half of those offered places accept. "Some come in spite of the fact that we are all women — and stay because of it."

What is different, says the president, is that women don't become labelled as so-and-so's girlfriend, which can happen at a co-ed college. One student summed up the difference by telling her that if you married someone you dated while you were at Smith you did so out of choice, not habit.

Dunn firmly believes that much of this spirit would be lost if women's colleges bowed to the trend and decided to admit men. "Women's institutions are still a very important part of the women's movement for equality in the world. Maybe the day will come when men and women operate on such parity that we won't be necessary. Maybe then we'll invite men to apply for Smith."

Lee Rodwell

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100 Tottenham Court Road London W1 • Drummond Centre, Croydon • 100-101 Guildford • 100-101 Wokingham • 100-101 Wokingham

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **ACTING SHAKESPEARE:** Ian McKellen plays Hamlet, Falstaff, Romeo, Juliet and many more in award-winning solo show. All proceeds to the London Lighthouse AIDS Hospice. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-836 4401). Tube: Embankment. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 6.30-8.30pm and 9-11pm, £4-14.

★ **SACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5.50-£17.50.

★ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** New version in traditional style by David Cragin. Theatre Royal, Gilly Raffles Square, E15 (01-534 0310). Tube: Stratford East. Mon-Sat 7.15-9.15pm, mat Mon-Sat 2.15-4.15pm, £2-25.50, children £1.50-£4.

★ **SELLS ARE RINGING:** Lesley Macdonald's new tune-packed telephone musical. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, SE10 (01-858 7755). Station: Greenwich (15 min from Charing Cross). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £2-10.

★ **THE FOREIGNER:** Nicholas Lyndhurst as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 3878). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8-10.30pm, mat Thurs and Sat 3-5.30pm, £2-15.50.

★ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5.50-£17.50.

★ **JAMES BOND - THE PANTO:** Licensed to look like Z. Cap. Z. Cap's alternative version, with John Downie as an agent out of his depth among the madmen and the seductive action. A hit in Brighton. ICA Theatre, The Mall SW1 (01-836 3847). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8-10pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £2-15.50.

★ **LETITIA AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke waging eccentric war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3667). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £2-15.50.

★ **OLD YEAR'S EVE:** New Peter Sayer play set at the turn of the

FILMS

Also on national release

★ ADVANCE BOOKING POSSIBLE

★ **THE ADVENTURES OF MARK TWAIN:** (U) Epic of the American author, made with two of the finest of the American pioneer of clay animation, Will Vinton. James Whitmore heads the cast (85 min). ICA Cinema (01-530 3647). Progs 3.00, (D)

★ **THE ROVER:** Jeremy Irons, Imogen Stubbs, Hugh Quarshie and other splendid people in Apsara Bhatt's battle of the sexes. Marmalade Theatre, Puddle Dock EC4 (01-226 5555). Tube: Blackfriars. Tonight 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.50.

★ **TWELFTH NIGHT:** Richard Brinsley's Malvolio in Renaissance Theatre Company's first Shakespeare. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-748 3354). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, £2.50-£10.50.

★ **TING TANG MINE:** Robert Glenister, Barbara Jefford and Leslie Davis in Nick Darke's new play centred around a Cornish tin mine. National Theatre (Cottesloe), Tube: Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, £7.50.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queens Theatre (01-734 1188). ★ The Business of Mr. Mayfield Theatre (01-629 3038). ★ Cabaret: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ The 400 Blows: Fortune Theatre (01-836 2238). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244). ★ The 400 Blows: Fortune Theatre (01-836 2238). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244).

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OUT OF TOWN

CROYDON: ★ The Servant of Two Masters

★ **THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS:** Musical version of Goldoni's comic masterpiece. Italian farce available, but West 5.15pm and Sat 5.15pm. £2.50-£15.50.

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WALKS

A JOURNEY THROUGH DICKENS'S LONDON

★ **A JOURNEY THROUGH DICKENS'S LONDON:** meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.25.

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ROCK

★ GENO WASHINGTON: Sea captain

★ **GENO WASHINGTON:** Sea captain. Mean Fiddler, 28a Harlesden High Street, London NW10 (01-861 5480) 9pm, £5.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceefax** AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 7.10 **The Raccoons** (r). 7.35 **The Pink Panther Show** (r). 7.50 **Bugs Bunny's Merry World** (r). 8.15 **The Littlest Hobo** (r). 8.40 **The Flintstones** (r). 9.05 **Neighbours** (r).
- 9.20 **Children's BBC**, introduced by Simon Panton, begins with a special and Merry cartoon (r). 9.30 **Why Don't You...?** Includes a new beach game 9.55 **Boss Cat** (r). 10.20 **Sebastian**, the Incredible Drawing Dog, with Michael Barrymore (r). 10.25 **Merry's Cat** (r). 10.30 **Birthday Greedings** presented by Simon Panton followed by **Play School** presented by Floella Benjamin and Nick Mercer.
- 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. A reading by Joseph Lumley 11.00 **Popeye the Sailor**.
- 11.20 **Starman** 85. Six stuntmen compete for the Triton Showers Trophy. Presented by Mike Smith.
- 12.20 **Challenge Africa**. How Annika Rice managed to persuade a symphony orchestra to play the 1812 Overture with a fireworks accompaniment on a "trozan" River Thames by the Tower of London in order to raise money for last year's Children in Need appeal.
- 1.00 **News** with Richard Whitmore. Weather. 1.15 **Cartoons**.
- 1.30 **Neighbours**. Clive Robles sends unwanted brotherly advice; and Zoe ponder the future with Tony. 1.50 **Behind the Scenes at Grange Hill**. Lee MacDonald, Zainab in Grange Hill, introduces the rest of the cast and the production staff of television's best known comprehensive school. 2.40 **Cartoons**.
- 2.50 **Bonus** starring Michael Crawford in the role of this Harold Pinter musical production of the story of the

- celebrated American showman, Phineas Taylor Barnum (r). (Ceefax) includes football highlights at 4.00.
- 4.50 **Final Score** presented by Ralph Dorris.
- 5.05 **News** with Richard Whitmore. Weather.
- 5.20 **The Pink Panther Show** (r).
- 5.40 **Blankety Blank**. Lee Dawson's guests are Ken Bruce, Bernie Clifton, Bonnie Langford, Ian MacCallum, Ian Macdonald and Kathy Stant. (Ceefax).
- 6.15 **Twenty Years of the Two Ronnies**. Highlights of their fruitful comic partnership chosen by Messrs Corbett and Barker including the musical parody *Jealousy and Friends* (r). (Ceefax).
- 7.00 **Wogan**. Terry's guests are comedians launching the aid charity, *Comic Relief*. Among them are Larry Harvey, Robbie Coltrane, Dawn French, Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry. Plus, music from the *Stranglers*.
- 7.35 **Film: The Beauty** (1984) starring John Gielgud, Anthony Hopkins, Laraine Day, Edward Fox and Daniel Day-Lewis. Drama about the most celebrated marine mutiny in history caused in 1783 by a confrontation between Captain William Bligh and his deputy, Fletcher Christian, following violent storms and a landing in Tahiti. Directed by Roger Donaldson. (Ceefax).
- 8.45 **News** with Richard Whitmore. Regional news and weather.
- 10.00 **Upstream**. (Ceefax) (see Choice).
- 11.40 **Film: The Quiet Man** (1952) starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. Sean Thornton returns to his native Galway village for a quiet time after making good in the United States - but life turns out to be more eventful than he planned. With Barry Fitzgerald and Victor McLaglen. Directed by John Ford. (Ceefax).
- 1.45 **Weather**.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** includes cartoons and other family entertainment ending with, at 6.52, news and weather.
- 6.25 **The Monte Carlo International Circus**. A selection of award-winning acts from all over the world. The commentary is by Gerry Cooke.
- 10.30 **Film: Babes in Toyland** (1981) starring Ray Bolger. A Walt Disney tale about the villainous Barnaby and his plot to kidnap the nice Tom in order to marry Tom's fiancée, Mary. Directed by Jack Donaghy.
- 12.30 **News**.
- 12.35 **Give Us a Clue**. The first of a new series of the celebrity name game presented by Michael Parkinson. Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Bobby D'Amico, Gabrielle Drake, Debbie Greenwood, Michael Groth, John Lee and Ian Ogilvy.
- 1.00 **The Queen's Speech**. The Queen talks about her memorable tours to far-flung lands and Commonwealth leaders and British celebrities give their views on the value of the Commonwealth. The writer and presenter is Trevor McDonald (r).
- 2.00 **Lookat: The Mercantile Credit**. Classic live from Northbrook Castle, Blackpool. Tony Francis introduces live coverage of the play about the relationship between Alex Higgins and Tony Mac. The commenting team is John Pukeman, Rex Williams, Ray Edwards, Mark Williams and Jim Messemey.
- 4.00 **Film: Superman II** (1980) starring Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman and Margot Kidder. The caped hero battles with the treacherous General Zod who returns from outer space to cause chaos in the state of Idaho. With Laurence Fishburne as General Zod. Directed by Richard Lester. (Ceefax).
- 6.10 **News**.

- 6.15 **Mate's Delight** with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. A light-hearted celebration of New Year's Days past. The guests are Sarah Brightman, Barbara Dickson, Andrew O'Connor, Jimmy Savile, the Stranglers and John White.
- 6.40 **Film: Star Wars** (1977) starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Celebrated science fiction adventure set in a far-off galaxy in the distant future about the battle between good and evil for possession of a deadly weapon, the Death Star. Directed by George Lucas. (Ceefax).
- 8.00 **Clive James on Television**. The Australian travels the world's television programmes to bring bizarre and unusual offerings from all parts of the globe.
- 10.10 **News**.
- 10.15 **The Ten Guid Tourists**. A cartoon about the ten tourists who visit Australia. The more than a million people who emigrated to Australia at a cost to themselves of ten pounds.
- 11.15 **Snooker**. Dickie Davies introduces highlights from the fourth round of the Mercantile Credit Classic at Northbrook Castle, Blackpool, featuring Steve Davis against Scotland's Jim Donnelly and Dennis Taylor.
- 12.30 **Wanted: Dead or Alive** (r/w) starring Steve McQueen as bounty hunter Josh Randall, who refuses to hand over a killer he has in his custody for another crime until he is paid his bounty (r).
- 1.00 **Night Network**. Pop music, cartoons, interviews and videos.
- 4.00 **Film: Charley Vaneck** (1973) starring Valérie Maillan as a small-time bank robber who escapes to Tahiti when he raids a bank where his loot is stashed. Directed by Don Siegel. Ends at 6.00.

Cruise to Armageddon

TELEVISION CHOICE

It's going to be a great holiday, roars the appalling Keith who has such a loud voice that you think there is something wrong with the sound. But the sound is fine; the holiday, it soon becomes clear, is not. Two married couples are taking a trip on a rented river cruiser with Armageddon Bridge as the ironically named destination. Keith's vicious wife, Anne, reviews the prospect of 10 days on a floating rabbit hutch and swears for a comfortable hotel. Their enthusiastic companions are the weedy Alestair, Keith's partner in a noxious factory, and wimpish Emma, who is so apprehensive of the water that she wears a life jacket and takes pills for travel sickness. Alan Ayckbourn's *Way Upstream* (BBC1, 10.00pm) can, just about, be called a comedy play, though it is a comedy of the work - previously presented on stage at the National Theatre - should be warned. The early scenes contain moments of horse-play that could

Marion Bailey, Nick Dunning, Joanne Pearce and Barrie Rafter in Ayckbourn's *Way Upstream*, BBC1, 10.00pm

have come from a *Carry On* film but the tone becomes increasingly blacker as nerves are exposed and humiliations are heaped. I cannot improve on the verdict of the director/producer Terry Johnson: "It begins like an episode of *Terry and June* and finishes up like *Deliverance*". The key to the switch is Vic, who helps the crew out and becomes one of them, to the extent of ruling

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

10.00 **Colin Berry** 6.00 **Steve Macdonald** 8.05 **Ken Bruce** 10.00 **Peter Dinklage** 11.00 **Jimmy Young** 12.00 **David Gandy** 1.00 **New Year's Day** 2.00 **John Dunn** 7.00 **Hubert Gregg** 7.30 **New Year's Night** 10.00 **Music Night** (BBC Concert Orchestra) 10.45 **Laurel** presents the Vienna Boys Choir, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Claudio Abbado. Part one. Rehearsal's overture. Donna Diana.

Radio 2

10.00 **Colin Berry** 6.00 **Steve Macdonald** 8.05 **Ken Bruce** 10.00 **Peter Dinklage** 11.00 **Jimmy Young** 12.00 **David Gandy** 1.00 **New Year's Day** 2.00 **John Dunn** 7.00 **Hubert Gregg** 7.30 **New Year's Night** 10.00 **Music Night** (BBC Concert Orchestra) 10.45 **Laurel** presents the Vienna Boys Choir, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Claudio Abbado. Part one. Rehearsal's overture. Donna Diana.

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT.
6.00 **News** 7.00 **24 Hours** 7.30 **World News** 8.00 **News** 8.30 **World News** 9.00 **World News** 9.30 **World News** 10.00 **World News** 10.30 **World News** 11.00 **World News** 11.30 **World News** 12.00 **World News** 12.30 **World News** 1.00 **World News** 1.30 **World News** 2.00 **World News** 2.30 **World News** 3.00 **World News** 3.30 **World News** 4.00 **World News** 4.30 **World News** 5.00 **World News** 5.30 **World News** 6.00 **World News** 6.30 **World News** 7.00 **World News** 7.30 **World News** 8.00 **World News** 8.30 **World News** 9.00 **World News** 9.30 **World News** 10.00 **World News** 10.30 **World News** 11.00 **World News** 11.30 **World News** 12.00 **World News** 12.30 **World News** 1.00 **World News** 1.30 **World News** 2.00 **World News** 2.30 **World News** 3.00 **World News** 3.30 **World News** 4.00 **World News** 4.30 **World News** 5.00 **World News** 5.30 **World News** 6.00 **World News** 6.30 **World News** 7.00 **World News** 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TEMPUS

Our fancied five to provide shelter from financial storm

Buy big business, buy British and be bored rather than brave is our investment message for 1988. But there is still room for a little spice. Today we offer our annual selection of five shares, not to buy on Monday and hold until next New Year's Eve, but to consider when it feels right to commit funds to the equity market.

There is greater than usual uncertainty about whether this will be a good year for equities. The volatility of world financial markets makes us especially cautious. The British economy appears to be in good shape, but it cannot thrive without buoyant world trade and until the international outlook becomes clearer, many investors will want to keep a higher than normal proportion of their portfolio in cash.

There are still investment opportunities around, but the emphasis this year is on shares with defensive qualities — those which are proof against the plunging dollar and give some protection if a recession develops.

British Gas, Land Securities and Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance fall into this category, and their high yields make them a good alternative to cash.

To lighten the mix, we have added Clyde Petroleum, which is a possible takeover prospect, and Wilson Bowden, a small Midlands house-builder.

British Gas

The attractions of British Gas are that it is a high-yielding monopoly with a strong balance sheet and massive cash flows of about £500 million a year.

Most of its sales are to the virtually captive market of domestic users for whom there is no other supplier. From them, the only choice is to switch fuels, and this is unlikely to happen unless the price of gas were to rise very significantly against other fuels and remain high.

In addition to domestic sales, British Gas has an important and profitable industrial business. Complaints from some industrial customers about the prices they are charged for gas have been passed to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading.

The possibility of an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the pricing of its gas to industrial users is likely to be the most important adverse influence on sentiment in the short term. A referral to the MMC could present a buying opportunity.

On balance, the falling dollar and lower oil prices benefit British Gas's margins as they serve to reduce the price at which it buys its gas. But the benefits will be offset as low oil prices make fuel oil more competitive.

The shares are still partly



that makes it vulnerable to a takeover. A recent oil find on North Sea Block 9/18 where Clyde has a 10 per cent interest, and the prospects of a significant extension to Wytch Farm in Dorset where it has a 7.5 per cent interest, add to the attractions. Two wells are planned in Quadrant 98 just off Wytch Farm later this year.

Four leading shareholders control more than 45 per cent of the group. The family holding company of Mr Gary Weston, the AB Foods chairman, has 17.7 per cent, British & Commonwealth has 9.4 per cent, Norwich Union 10.5 per cent, Globe Investment Trust 6.8 per cent and the Water Authorities Superannuation Fund 5.2 per cent.

Any one of these could help a predator gain a toehold — but at a price. And whoever wins Clyde also receives a 21.7 per cent stake in rival oil company, Gosh Petroleum. The shares have risen in response to the takeover froth in the sector, but at the present level of 104p there is plenty to go for.

Land Securities

Land Securities is regarded as one of the safest property groups. Its rental income is growing, while its high-quality central London sites both in the City and the West End are an attractive mixture of office and retail developments.

Not only is its balance sheet extremely strong, but it also has no exposure to foreign currencies. Analysts are predicting that the net asset value will have moved ahead by the March 1988 year-end to more than 600p a share compared with the latest share price of 480p.

If there is a negative aspect, it relates to some recent project hold-ups due to planning permission and occupation delays, but the foundations for the years ahead have been well laid.

Guardian Royal Exchange

The high yields, above-average prospects for dividend growth and strong balance sheets of the composite insurance sector make it a first-class hunting ground for the shares that should grow well despite uncertainties in financial markets.

The nature of the insurance contract and the regularity of premium income makes them virtually recession-proof.

Exposure to the US is a negative factor when assessing the composites. Guardian Royal Exchange, however, has low exposure compared with its competitors. The group is expected to report pretax profits of about £200 million for the year to December 1987.

Not only does Guardian Royal Exchange boast the best underwriting results on average over the past 12 years, its results have also been the least volatile. Its minimum dividend increase since 1970 has been 10 per cent in any one year and the current yield is an attractive 6.3 per cent. The potential for future dividend growth makes GRE a particularly good alternative to cash.

Market building blocks are on site and waiting

Five billion pounds of takeover activity says the equity market in Britain should not still be falling; yet down, down, it headed yesterday ready to set the New Year off to a miserable start.

Equities are about confidence. If investors are not confident, they should stay out of the market, not try to find safe bolt-holes within it, because there are none. Equity investment is about risk, and the expectation of a reward for taking that risk. It is an occupation for optimists, and by and large the market does move forward, blessing its adherents and confounding its detractors.

But even the optimists are shaken, and their hopes of a last-minute rally to pump up year-end portfolio valuations were dashed yesterday with a fall of 47.1 points in the FT-SE 100 index. But the pumps have this week been largely manned by the boys, rather than the men. And when the men return on Monday, refreshed by their holiday and full of bright ideas, the market will find its direction based on business, rather than on sentiment. In the end, shares go up when there are more buyers than sellers, rather than on the strength or weakness of the American dollar.

Fund managers are paid to manage, and they will be looking for ways to drive their portfolios forward. The end of 1987 could mark the end of the siege mentality which has gripped them since Black Monday, but few would be prepared to put money on it. But then who, on the first day of 1975, would have predicted that share prices were on the threshold of a bull market that would run, virtually uninterrupted, for a dozen years?

The building blocks for a good start to the year for the British equity market are all in position.

Firstly, Britain has a healthy economy, likely to grow at between 2 per cent and 3 per cent in 1988, fast enough to produce a rapid rise in company profits just at the right moment to take over as the increases stemming from greater industrial efficiency are beginning to fall away. Profits growth should remain in double figure percentages.

Secondly, we can look forward to a good budget for the stock market. The Chancellor has the flexibility to cut taxes and the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement is the very picture of housewifely prudence, providing ample scope to stimulate the domestic economy should that be required to make good international trade.

Thirdly, shares are now cheap. Based on earnings projections for the coming year, the British equity market is selling at less than 11 times prospective

earnings, which is still only one percentage point off the 1987 low and four points down from the pre-crash high. At the same time, the analysts are beginning once again to look at the reverse yield gap between equities and gilts, and this has closed to the point where the buying of gilt edged has limited attractions, except to the hardened pessimist.

Finally, and most importantly, there is a heavy and increasing weight of liquidity in the market which will not be mopped up for several months. In the first quarter of 1988 there are no privatizations scheduled and no instalments due on previous sales. The next large call on the market is scheduled to be the £1.6 billion due on British Gas in mid April. Rights issues are likely to be few and far between, while the heavy load of bid activity will put cash back into the market.

None of that means that share prices will go up, only that they could. Those firm building blocks are standing on foundations which are in danger of being eroded by the turmoil in currency markets. Such frantic foreign exchange movements can be tolerated only for a limited period, and at some point some stability will have to be established. It seems clear that the US administration is content, for now, for the dollar to fall, for its very decline solves some of the imbalances which are driving the foreign exchange dealers and economists frantic. But not for ever.

While the dollar gyrates, there will be little life in the equity market. The building blocks will not, however, disappear. They will stay on site ready to be assembled into a market recovery once the international ground has ceased to shake.

Take the BP buy-back

The Government's offer to buy back any partly-paid BP shares at 70p will close on Tuesday, and investors should not miss it. Despite the enthusiasm of the Kuwait Investment Office, the partly-paid shares are still far too high to maintain their price once the prop of the buy back offer is removed.

Individual investors should remember that from the Bank of England they collect 70p "clean", with no deductions at all. No contract stamp duty nor commissions will be charged, and investors will receive their 70p a share within days.

On holdings of a few hundred shares, that concession is worth 20p a share or more, so the stock market price of the new shares would have to rise to about 90p to match the Government's offer.

David Brewerton

Crucial test for Opec's fragile output accord

January will be a crucial month for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and will test its resolve to curb huge oil overproduction in the face of a seasonal downturn in demand and threats of price cuts from Saudi Arabia, oil analysts and traders said yesterday.

Saudi Arabia and Indonesia have threatened to ignore Opec's price and output quotas, agreed only two weeks ago, if others continue to overproduce and sell below official prices.

Opec overproduction since August, particularly from the Gulf, has glutted the market and weakened oil prices, leading to discounts from some Opec members.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and Opec's leading producer with a 4.34 million barrels-a-day quota, has refused to overproduce or offer price discounts. But a senior Saudi oil official earlier this week said: "If our production fell below our quota, we would assess why, and if it was because someone else was overproducing, then we would assume the (Opec) agreement is compromised and there is no agreement."

Mr Abdul Rachman Ramly, the president of Pertamina, Indonesia's state oil company, has said Indonesia will not be bound by the Opec agreement if other members break agreed output ceilings or price commitments.

After six days of acrimonious negotiations in Vienna, Opec ministers could agree only on extending their accord on prices and output for the second half of 1987 into the first half of 1988.

The reference price was kept at \$18 (£9.67), while the output ceiling was set at 15.06 million bpd and Iraq was given no quota.

Oil markets plunged to 10-month lows when the agreement was announced as traders believed it was unlikely to curb overproduction.

Prices have partially recovered, with North Sea Brent for March leading quoted at about \$16.80 to \$16.90 — up from \$14.50 lows.

Opec's failure to reinforce its agreement, rather than simply roll over the current pact, could not have come at a worse time, analysts said. Markets often weaken at the start of each year as oil



Rilwanu Lukman: pressure to keep to Vienna agreement

companies draw on stocks built up earlier. Demand for Opec oil normally falls by about 1.3 million bpd in the first quarter of each year.

Opec has, however, produced up to 20 million bpd in recent months, well above its second-half 1987 output ceiling of 16.6 million bpd, encouraging oil companies to boost their stocks by the end of 1987 to above the high levels of the end of 1986.

Although stocks held at the end of 1987 were estimated only slightly above 12 months previously, they could tip the balance and enable companies to draw on inventory oil to a greater extent in the first quarter of this year.

Some analysts believe oil companies could draw up to 2.5 million bpd from stock and reduce their need for fresh purchases from Opec.

Opec ministers pledged in Vienna to curb output and some have announced cuts. The United Arab Emirates, which has been pumping up to twice its Opec quota, has told oil companies that Abu Dhabi, its largest producer, will cut output by 400,000 bpd from January 1. Kuwait, after admitting overproduction, said it would stick to quota and cut output 150,000 bpd.

Iraq, which said it was producing 2.83 million bpd, may also produce less. At the end of the Opec meeting on December 14, Mr Rilwanu Lukman, the Opec president and Nigerian oil minister, said Iraq had pledged "not to muck up the market" by over-producing. In theory, Opec could re-

duce output to between 17.3 million to 17.4 million bpd, analysts said, which would probably allow it to get through the first quarter without a steep price fall.

But the oil market is still sceptical about whether Opec will be able to discipline itself and the pressures to sell below official prices may be overwhelming, analysts said.

One danger signal was flashed recently with reports that Japanese oil companies were said to have decided to cut combined imports of Iran crude by 30 per cent this year. This followed "advice" from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) after pressure from the US.

Iran, which is already discounting official Opec prices, will be forced to continue to do so in order to sell its oil elsewhere. This could torpedo Opec's fragile agreement as other members will not stand idly by and watch their markets disappear.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citicorp NA	8.50%

The great plague of '87

The plague of the City in 1987 has been, without question, its insatiable appetite for acronyms. It all began with the rise — and demise — of the Yuppie. At the start of the year The Times City Diary was full of golden halos, £200,000 pay packets, company Porsche, Rolex watches and Ray-Ban sunglasses. Barely a day passed without a letter or telephone call to suggest an addition to the ever-growing list of sub-species — Dinkies (Duel Income No Kids Yet), Sinks (Single Income Numerous Kids) and Filoks (Fairy Income Lots of Kids). Even those irritated by them were hooked on the acronym craze. One such disgruntled reader invented Inertia (Indolent Nerds Expanding Real Time Inventing Acronyms). As the year progressed and the strain of long working hours began to take its toll, the average City worker was transformed into a Bobo (Burnt Out But Opulent). Men began to dream of having time for a Yummy (Young Upwardly Mobile Mistress) and jealous on-lookers outside the Square Mile talked gleefully about Lombards (Lots of money But a Right Dick). Then, in October, came the stock market crash and recession hit. The financial services sector. Stickers suddenly talked gloomily of Otiose (On the Way Out, DCM awards (Don't Come In on Monday) and Lifo and Filo policies (Last/First In, First Out). It all came to an end with the post-crash Puppies. Previously upwardly

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Penny-wise Hanson

Scrooge of the Year award goes to Lord Hanson, the third Yorkshire-born Hanson Trust chairman, who, it came to light, helped himself to portraits of the Courage family from their boardroom after taking over Imperial. A distribution company he later

sold even had some lorries off the road with flat tyres after his rate that all expenditure over £500 be approved. Survivor of the year's embarrassment test was Nick Evans, a Phillips & Drew market maker, voted "Rear of the Year" by female colleagues.

Bubbly people

The City did not win many friends during 1987 — its establishment figures were noticeably missing from yesterday's New Year Honours List. But with many in the City working long hours for rare public glory, I have selected a handful of alternative "worthies" for The Times City Diary's own hon-



ours roll call. Magnums of Krug's finest Grande Cuvée champagne will thus be winging their way — as either consolation or reward — to the following. Sydney Lipworth (in the cartoon by Keith Waite), life-long partner of life assurance supremo Sir Mark Weinberg, who today takes on the thankless and full-time task of chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Craven, whose impressive City pedigree was spotted in this column in February, when he was running his own investment group Phoenix Securities, for bravely — and successfully — accepting the hot seat at the then beleaguered merchant bank Morgan Grenfell. Blue Arrow chairman Tony Berry for borrowing £8 million to buy his own shares just before the crash and my colleague Michael "Fish" Clark for predicting, in a television interview the Friday before the crash, that shares would be up on Black Monday.

Too late, they cried

Such is the power of hindsight. A review of the City Diary in 1987 uncovers no end of indicators throughout the summer months that the heady bull market was reaching its peak. At the end of August, I suggested just that, when National Savings controller John Stamp sent out a mail shot claiming that the premium bond was "a serious investment option." Claiming that because the prizes were tax-free, "there is a real prospect of achieving a return over a period of time which will compare favourably with other investments which guarantee that your capital is completely safeguarded." Stamp could hardly have guessed that his investment advice — which we scoffed at at the time — would be proved right so fast. I bet many a stock market punter now wishes he had taken heed.

What lies ahead for Burton boss Sir Ralph Halpern? In an action-packed 1987, he added more spice to the City than anyone else. First came the public notoriety that ensued from revelations of his five-times-a-night affair with model Fiona Wright, then he was separated from his attractive wife, and finally he hurriedly scrapped plans to launch a lingerie department called Secret Affair in revamped Debenhams stores. In February, a spokesman tried to deny any knowledge of the new lingerie logo but the sign was already on display in the Preston store. "But we don't call it that any more," a salesgirl giggled.

Carol Leonard

Insurers in Gulf rates dispute

Dubai (Reuter) — Insurers on the frontline of the Gulf shipping war are threatening to break with London underwriters over soaring premiums.

Mr Ibrahim Hannoun, the chairman of the 40-member United Arab Emirates (UAE) Insurance Association, said companies would take their business elsewhere if London ignored their plea to reverse a rise in war-risk premiums on non-oil cargo ships.

London underwriters more than doubled the war-risk premium for southern Gulf ports on December 23. It jumped to 0.75 per cent from 0.375 per cent for hulls and 0.30 per cent for cargoes.

Mr Hannoun said: "If they stick to their decision, there will be chaos in the market. Many companies called me to say they were already losing so much business at the previous levels they could not adopt the new rates."

Iran and Iraq have hit 18 ships in the last two weeks, just two of them cargo vessels. They were a Korean ship carrying timber and a Maldivian-flagged vessel loaded with sulphur.

Mr Hannoun said his association had asked the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) for a two-tier system with separate premiums for oil and non-oil cargo ships because of the different risks. He added: "We don't believe this particular rise is justified for cargo ships because so few are being hit."

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

<p>Account Market Loans % Overnight (Discount %) Treasury Bills (Discount %) Prime 2 mth - 5% 3 mth - 5% Floating 2 mth - 5% 3 mth - 5% Buying (Discount %) 1 mth 8 1/2%-9% 2 mths 8 1/2%-9 1/2% 3 mths 8 1/2%-9 1/2% Selling (Discount %) 1 mth 9%-9 1/2% 2 mths 9%-9 1/2% 3 mths 9%-9 1/2% Trade Bills (Discount %) 1 mth 9%-9 1/2% 2 mths 9%-9 1/2% 3 mths 9%-9 1/2% Interbank (30 day) 1 week 8 1/4% 1 mth 8 1/4% 3 mths 8 1/4% 1 week 8 1/4%-9 1/4% 1 mth 8 1/4%-9 1/4% 3 mths 8 1/4%-9 1/4% Local Authority Deposits (%) 1 day 8% 7 day 8% 1 mth 8% 3 mth 8% 6 mth 8% 12 mth 8% Local Authority Bonds (%) 1 mth 8 1/4%-9% 2 mth 8%-9% 3 mth 8 1/4%-9% 3 mth 8% 6 mth 8% 12 mth 8%-9% Standing Cds (%) 1 mth 8%-9% 3 mth 8 1/4%-9 1/4% 6 mth 8-9% 12 mth 9%-9%</p>	<p>Winn Road 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7.15-7.16</p>	<p>3 mth 7.30-7.25</p>	<p>6 mth 7.40-7.35</p>
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<p>Currency Dollar Call: 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>Deutschmark Call: 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>French Franc Call: 6%-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>Swiss Franc Call: 1%-1% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>Yen Call: 1%-1% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>British Pound Call: 1%-1% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>7 day 6%-6% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>1 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>3 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>	<p>6 mth 7 1/4-7% 30-30% 3 mth 6% 6 mth 6% 12 mth 6%</p>
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<p>APRIL 1988 Lend: 8 1/2-9.5% Borrow: 8 1/2-9.5% Avg rate: 8.500% Net swap: 8.1200%</p>	<p>LIBOR Lend: 8 1/2-9.5% Borrow: 8 1/2-9.5% Avg rate: 8.500% Net swap: 8.1200%</p>	<p>LIBOR Lend: 8 1/2-9.5% Borrow: 8 1/2-9.5% Avg rate: 8.500% Net swap: 8.1200%</p>	<p>LIBOR Lend: 8 1/2-9.5% Borrow: 8 1/2-9.5% Avg rate: 8.500% Net swap: 8.1200%</p>	<p>LIBOR Lend: 8 1/2-9.5% Borrow: 8 1/2-9.5% Avg rate: 8.500% Net swap: 8.1200%</p>
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<p>TREASURY BILLS 1 mth 8 1/4-9% 3 mth 8 1/4-9% 6 mth 8 1/4-9% 12 mth 8 1/4-9%</p>	<p>1 mth 8 1/4-9% 3 mth 8 1/4-9% 6 mth 8 1/4-9% 12 mth 8 1/4-9%</p>	<p>3 mth 8 1/4-9% 3 mth 8 1/4-9% 6 mth 8 1/4-9% 12 mth 8 1/4-9%</p>	<p>6 mth 8 1/4-9% 3 mth 8 1/4-9% 6 mth 8 1/4-9% </p>
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Widespread falls

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 21. Dealings end January 8. Settlement day January 11. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 16.)

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price increases, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Low & Bonar	Industrials L-R	100
2	AB Elect	Electronics	100
3	Devries & Newman	Industrials A-D	100
4	Blue Circle (a)	Building Roads	100
5	Advent	Industrials A-D	100
6	Rutland	Building Roads	100
7	Ward White	Drugs/Stores	100
8	Whitson	Industrials S-Z	100
9	Dorcy	Motors/Aircraft	100
10	Brown & Tawse	Industrials A-D	100
11	Hopworth Ceramic	Industrials E-K	100
12	Hopkinson	Industrials E-K	100
13	T & S Stores	Drugs/Stores	100
14	Ladbroke (a)	Hotels/Caterers	100
15	Davidson Pumps	Paper/Print/Adv	100
16	Smith (WH) A	Drugs/Stores	100
17	Sandwich	Paper/Print/Adv	100
18	Pharmacia Prop	Pharmaceuticals	100
19	Tecol	Textiles	100
20	TI	Industrials S-Z	100
21	Laird Prop	Property	100
22	Kode	Electronics	100
23	Quintess Group	Leisure	100
24	Covis (T)	Motors/Aircraft	100
25	Dale Elec	Electronics	100
26	Kwik-Fit	Motors/Aircraft	100
27	Lep	Industrials L-R	100
28	Bridon	Industrials A-D	100
29	Slings (P)	Property	100
30	Thames Valley (a)	Food	100
31	Thames Valley (a)	Food	100
32	Aradigm	Motors/Aircraft	100
33	McCarthy & S	Building Roads	100
34	Senior Day	Industrials S-Z	100
35	Weir	Industrials S-Z	100
36	Hickson	Chemicals/Plastics	100
37	Canon St	Industrials A-D	100
38	Worland Glass	Industrials S-Z	100
39	Davy	Industrials A-D	100
40	Crest Nicholson	Building Roads	100
41	Chrysalis	Leisure	100
42	IMI (a)	Industrials E-K	100
43	Cosmos Bros	Chemicals/Plastics	100
44	THORNEMI (a)	Electronics	100
45	Times Newspaper Ltd	Daily News	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
18	100	100	0
19	100	100	0
20	100	100	0
21	100	100	0
22	100	100	0
23	100	100	0
24	100	100	0
25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
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24	100	100	0
25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
18	100	100	0
19	100	100	0
20	100	100	0
21	100	100	0
22	100	100	0
23	100	100	0
24	100	100	0
25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

UNDATED

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
18	100	100	0
19	100	100	0
20	100	100	0
21	100	100	0
22	100	100	0
23	100	100	0
24	100	100	0
25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

INDEX-LINKED

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
18	100	100	0
19	100	100	0
20	100	100	0
21	100	100	0
22	100	100	0
23	100	100	0
24	100	100	0
25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987	High/Low	Share Price	Change
1	100	100	0
2	100	100	0
3	100	100	0
4	100	100	0
5	100	100	0
6	100	100	0
7	100	100	0
8	100	100	0
9	100	100	0
10	100	100	0
11	100	100	0
12	100	100	0
13	100	100	0
14	100	100	0
15	100	100	0
16	100	100	0
17	100	100	0
18	100	100	0
19	100	100	0
20	100	100	0
21	100	100	0
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25	100	100	0
26	100	100	0
27	100	100	0
28	100	100	0
29	100	100	0
30	100	100	0
31	100	100	0
32	100	100	0
33	100	100	0
34	100	100	0
35	100	100	0
36	100	100	0
37	100	100	0
38	100	100	0
39	100	100	0
40	100	100	0
41	100	100	0
42	100	100	0
43	100	100	0
44	100	100	0
45	100	100	0

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	%
105	48	Pan Resources	72	82	2.2	2.8
118	113	Rockwell	47	165	3.0	2.9
149	137	Int'l Bus. Corp. (IBM)	255	360	17.4	4.9
175	172	Schaeffler	81	10	22.8	2.6
185	182	Rockwell	407	470	14.0	16.5
124	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
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154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8
154	97	IBM (Int'l)	170	13	9.8	5.8

Jimmy Lorenzo for swift encore

By Mandarini

Racing welcomes the New Year with some excellent fare this afternoon, and there is no more eye-catching contest than the £20,000-added Ra Nova New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor.

Celtic Shot, the authorisation of his three starts this season, will be attempting to press his claims as a genuine Champion Hurdle contender, but I feel the much-improved Jimmy Lorenzo may be capable of springing a surprise.

The Peter Hedger-trained six-year-old was a tremendously impressive winner at Kempton Park on Boxing Day, springing clear of a competitive field to beat Chasing the Dragon, himself a winner on his previous start, by 10 lengths.

Before that success Jimmy

Lorenzo had finished just over two lengths third to Southernair - whom he meets today on 3½ mile terms - and Celtic, the winner of a high-class hurdle at Kempton last Monday. The form could hardly be more solid.

However, Celtic Shot will be a potent adversary. He was particularly well handicapped in the Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown last time and duly won as he was entitled to, beating Sproutson Boy by eight lengths. This, though, is a tougher assignment, meeting some hardened campaigners mostly on level terms.

Bilou Blus, also a good winner at Kempton on Boxing Day, is useful but steps out of novice company here, while Hypnos reverts to hurdling after a spell novice chasing.

At Cheltenham, Knock Hill



Mark Richards rides Jimmy Lorenzo at Windsor (2.0)

is fancied to gain his third successive win in the fourth A.S.W. Handicap Chase. John Webber's gelding beat The Langholm Dyer by four lengths over 3½ miles here in November - West Tip is only 4½ better off for a 10-length defeat - and this extra distance will favour such a thorough stayer.

Deep South, the winner of his last four starts, will certainly have his friends and look the likely danger, but Knock Hill is a doughty opponent over this course and distance.

Cool Strike, trained at Middleham by George Moore, can win a competitive race for the A.S.W. Handicap Hurdle. He was a staying-on fifth to Celtic Shot at Sandown last time, but the run which underlines his chance is his four-length second to Niblin in the County Hurdle at last season's festival meeting here.

Jazetas, fourth to Jimmy Lorenzo at Kempton last week, has to be respected but I feel he is better suited by a sharper course than this, while Robin Wonder, three times a course and distance winner, has yet to recapture his best form this time.

Another northern challenger who holds a fair chance is Young Slough in the Steel Plate Trial Hurdle, but he may have to give best to Wink Gulliver, an encouraging second to the multiple winner Combermere on his hurdling debut at Kempton in October.

However, I entrust the nap to Land Tanager in division one of the Woodcock Novices' Hurdle. He was a decisive winner at Towcester after running second to Anything Better in a good race at Ascot and looks a horse who will continue to improve.

Carlisle off

Today's meeting at Carlisle was abandoned after an inspection yesterday morning. Parts of the course are waterlogged. Twenty meetings have now been lost to the weather this season.

CHEL TENHAM

Selections

By Mandarini

12.10 LORD TORNAGRA (nap).
12.45 Wink Gulliver.
1.20 Private Views.

1.55 Knock Hill.
2.30 Cool Strike.
3.05 Gratification.
3.40 Steele View.

Michael Seely's selection: 12.10 LORD TORNAGRA (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.10 LORD TORNAGRA.

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.10 WOODMANTON NOVICES HURDLE (2m 4f; £2,340; 2m 4f) (13 runners)	
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0
100-00000	ALBANY BAY (5) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0

FORM LORD TORNAGRA (10-10) eased clear home when beating Paddy SEA (10-10) at Towcester (2m 4f) on Dec 12, 1987, by 10 lengths. Paddy SEA (10-10) was beaten by 10 lengths at Sandown (2m 4f) on Dec 12, 1987, by 10 lengths. Paddy SEA (10-10) was beaten by 10 lengths at Sandown (2m 4f) on Dec 12, 1987, by 10 lengths.

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Course specialists

Trainers	Runners	Per cent	Jockeys	Rides	Per cent
J. Jenkins	14	42	S. Sheppard	14	17.5
O. Woodford	14	42	S. Sheppard	14	17.5
P. Winton	14	42	S. Sheppard	14	17.5
J. Edwards	14	42	S. Sheppard	14	17.5
M. Oliver	14	42	S. Sheppard	14	17.5

WINDSOR

Selections

By Mandarini

1.00 Motelet Royale.
2.30 Star of Sarnes.
2.00 Jimmy Lorenzo.

2.30 Star of Sarnes.
3.00 Steadfast.
3.30 Winning Dancer.

By Michael Seely
2.00 Celtic Shot. 2.30 Fair Child.

Guide to our in-line racecard

0-0432 TIMEFORM 74 (C.F.A.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Ball 9-10-0 8 West 40 88

Going: good to soft (soft in places). Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-Fall, P-Paid up, U-Unsettled, B-Brought down, S-Stopped up, R-Retired, G-Good, W-Winner, H-Hood, E-Eyesight, C-Course winner, D-Distance winner, CD-course and distance winner).

Going: good to soft (soft in places). Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-Fall, P-Paid up, U-Unsettled, B-Brought down, S-Stopped up, R-Retired, G-Good, W-Winner, H-Hood, E-Eyesight, C-Course winner, D-Distance winner, CD-course and distance winner).

Going: good to soft (soft in places). Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-Fall, P-Paid up, U-Unsettled, B-Brought down, S-Stopped up, R-Retired, G-Good, W-Winner, H-Hood, E-Eyesight, C-Course winner, D-Distance winner, CD-course and distance winner).

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Course specialists

Trainers	Runners	Per cent	Jockeys	Rides	Per cent
P. Harris	11	45.5	P. Scudamore	11	25.0
P. Harris	11	45.5	P. Scudamore	11	25.0
P. Harris	11	45.5	P. Scudamore	11	25.0
P. Harris	11	45.5	P. Scudamore	11	25.0
P. Harris	11	45.5	P. Scudamore	11	25.0

1.55 ASW HANDICAP CHASE (24.815; 4m) (7 runners)

402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50
402-402-402	WEST TIP (10-10) (J. J. Loe) 5-11-0	50

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LEICESTER

Selections

By Mandarini

1.0 One To Mark. 1.30 Combined Exercise. 2.0 Motivated. 2.30 Salmon Run. 3.0 Blushing Spy. 3.30 Celtic Fleet.

Going: soft (chase course); heavy (hurdles)

1.0 NUMBERBONE NOVICES HURDLE (21.718; 2m) (18 runners)

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Andrew Longmore sees the Paris-Dakar rally lose its way as big business takes over the wheel

Amateur spirit breaks down in the desert

When a convoy of 200 assorted lorries, cars and motorbikes gathered in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower in 1978 at the start of the first Paris to Dakar rally few of the curious onlookers would have suspected that a decade later the event would be arguably the richest sporting event in the world.

This morning 600 vehicles, ranging from underpowered motorbikes through specially prepared rally cars to 10-ton lorries with turbochargers will parade down the boulevards of Versailles watched, it seems, by the whole of Paris. At the first bivouac in North Africa the organizers have prepared food for 2,500 people, only about 900 of whom will be competitors.

For the first time the event will be sponsored by one company, Pioneer, who have paid huge sums to have their name put to this tenth anniversary Paris-Dakar. Mann, the German truck manufacturer, Coca-Cola, Camel, Michelin and countless other companies of greater or less wealth have put money into a race, which for three weeks through the vast yellow wastelands of the Tenere desert, the dust and rock of Algeria and Mauritania, supports a huge and mobile economy.

But all the attention, all the money, all the hype has produced strong feelings of unease in the ramshackle Paris offices of the event's organizers, the Thierry Sabine Organization. Though the Paris-Dakar is still, for the majority, a glorious celebration of individual endeavour, the ultimate test of man against the elements, as the organizers like to describe it, there is a distinct danger that the increasing professionalism of the top teams will swamp the amateur spirit which first inspired the rally 10 years ago. The organizers are acutely aware of it.

After Peugeot's victory last year there were widespread claims that the rules about the servicing and repair of cars had been abused. In theory, teams have to take all their spares with them in vehicles entered for the rally. No outside assistance is allowed. But some teams were rumored to have dumped the spares at designated points along the route, enabling them to rebuild the cars overnight. If necessary, in an effort to capitalize on the enormous marketing kudos and profit of winning the Paris-Dakar.

Jean Todt, the team manager of Peugeot, whose attention to detail is legendary in the world of rallying, has no illusions about what the rally means to Peugeot. "It means three weeks of publicity. It is vital for the image of the car. It is a question of succeeding," he says. "It is a question for the glorious amateur spirit there."



Desert warrior: Cowan, who has reached Dakar five times out of five, tunes up for today's parade at Versailles (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Peugeot's arrival has raised the level of professionalism a notch, even according to other highly professional teams. Everything is organized down to the last detail and as many francs will be spent as are needed to win. Despite their personal regard for the event, Ari Vatanen and Juha Kankkunen are not subjecting themselves to 8,000 miles of foot-to-the-floor motoring for love. The Paris-Dakar is big business and they are expected to win.

The organizers know as well as anyone that their rules are being stretched to the limit. Earlier this year they called a meeting of all the big manufacturers to see if they could gain their co-operation in tightening up the rules. The mood, it seems, was not very co-operative. One manufacturer said that if he had to take all his spares with him on the rally he would just enter 60 trucks.

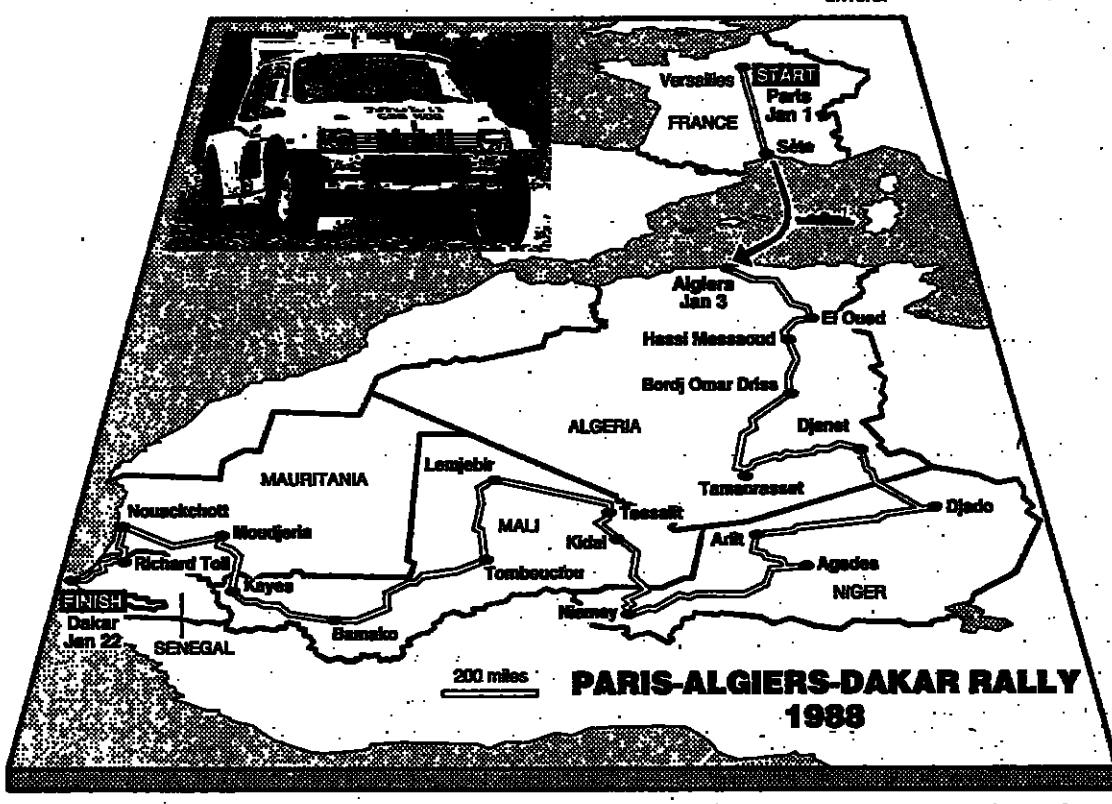
So the organizers went back to their maps and devised a route to stretch the resources of the professional teams to the limit and bring the rally back more into line with Thierry Sabine's original concept of a grand *raide* — the race

is still known as a *raide* rather than a rally.

"It is the toughest route I have ever seen," said Andrew Cowan, from Britain, who has reached Dakar in all his five attempts. "It's horrific. Just a few miles into the first special stage we go over the first sand dune and that is where the trouble really starts because the sand dunes are the most dangerous part of the rally. What looks like a perfectly flat piece of sand can suddenly turn into a 20-foot drop."

"After a few years you can get to read the sand a bit — changes in colour, for example, or in the contours, but in the end it all comes down to luck and luck will play a very big part this year. There is no doubt that they are aiming to bring the big teams back to the same level as the rest."

Todt agrees with Cowan that this year's route is the toughest yet. "I only hope that it is possible. Where the limit between tough and impossible? This year there are very long sections across some bad ground, which means that service vans will arrive late, sometimes too late, and there will be no rest. That will accumulate over the three weeks of the rally."



YACHTING: BLESSING IN DISGUISE FOR BRITAIN'S OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

THE TIMES
James Capel



How to enter APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (N) _____

(H) _____

AGE _____

OCCUPATION _____

REGION _____

SAILING EXPERIENCE _____

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The event organizers and sponsors shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however caused to the competitor, as a result of taking part in the event or event.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

Send your entry to:
The Times/James Capel Crewsearch
Sports Desk
The Times
1 Pennington Street
London E1 9XN

Chance to sail with the famous

Applications to enter *The Times/James Capel Crewsearch* for fresh talent to continue Britain's dominance in offshore and ocean racing continue to flood in (Barry Pickthall writes).

So far, more than 500 young sailors, dinghy and keelboat sailors have put their names forward for a season — at least, some leading crews are looking at the opportunity for making a late bid for a berth within the Olympic squad bound for Pusan in September.

Chris Law, the nominated skipper for Fete de Savary's Blue Arrow, has his sights on a sailing gold medal.

His campaign begins with a new crewman, Mel Coleman, stepping in to take Ed Leach's place as middleman for the world champion, Chris Law and Eddie Warden Owen, but a unique entry into the world of big boat racing.

The 60 finalists chosen to represent their region are promised a trial on board one of Britain's top 12 metres, while the best six will each be awarded a £1,000 travel bursary to further their international experience.

More importantly, Crewsearch also provides young crews, who must pass a rigorous training and testing programme set up by the RYA's offshore coaching staff headed by Bill Edgerton, with the credentials to go forward and compete in such events as the 1989 Admiral's Cup, Australia's Southern Cross Cup, and the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Undoubtedly, those with the strongest desire to compete at the top levels of this international sport will go on to race in a future America's Cup. For further details of Crewsearch, either complete the application form, or visit the RYA stand at the London Boat Show at Earls Court between January 6 and 16.

Leading crews set to change tack

Yachting diary by Barry Pickthall

The measures taken by the San Diego Yacht Club to limit challenges for the America's Cup to Michael Fay's New Zealand syndicate may prove a blessing in disguise for Britain's Olympic hopes.

Freed from the rigours of building and testing a new yacht, for a season — at least, some leading crews are looking at the opportunity for making a late bid for a berth within the Olympic squad bound for Pusan in September.

Chris Law, the nominated skipper for Fete de Savary's Blue Arrow, has his sights on a sailing gold medal.

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Monnet did, in fact, stop three times during the voyage; once at Cape Town, to replace a broken forestay, again in New Zealand, to check over his trimaran before continuing towards Cape Horn, and a third time in the Azores to replace video equipment damaged in a fire.

Jeffery claims that Monnet was given "special dispensation" to call in at the Azores at the instance of his sponsor. This is refuted, however, by Group Captain "Nobby" Clarke, who maintains a register of all nautical achievements for the Guinness Book of Records.

"The rules, laid down for the first singlehanded non-stop record attempt and sponsored by the *Sunday Times* are quite explicit — records are only valid when competitors receive no outside physical help or assistance. The only things they can receive are mail and newspapers," Clarke said.

At one time, even letters were construed as outside assistance. Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to complete a solo non-stop circumnavigation, recalls the day he ran aground on a sand bank off New Zealand's South Island. "A man came out to Suhali with some mail, but refused to hand it across, insisting, instead, to read it to me," he said.

Johannie Walker, sponsors of the world sailing speed trials at the America's Cup for the past five years, are to withdraw their support for this annual event to concentrate their promotion efforts on golf.

However, all is not lost. A spokesman for the company said yesterday that they will continue to support the event again this year in the event that another sponsor does not come forward.

TENNIS

McEnroe ruled out by injury

From Barry Wood
Brisbane

John McEnroe has decided to pull out of the Australian Open because of a recurring back injury. He had originally agreed to play as part of the terms for obtaining a reduction in the number of tournaments he must play this year.

The president of Tennis Australia, Brian Tobin, appeared to consider his withdrawal as only a minor inconvenience. "While we would have welcomed McEnroe's participation, an outstanding field of players — headed by Lendl, Edberg, Wilander, Cash, Graf, Navratilova, Mandlikova and Evert — have entered," he said.

In the women's event here, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, 19, of West Germany, made a 104 in the world, produced one of the finest victories of her career by defeating the Australian veteran, Dianne Balestrat, 6-3, 6-2, to reach the quarter-finals.

On a rain-affected day, the third seed, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, was the only other victor.

THIRD ROUND: C. Kohde-Kilsch (FRG) vs. D. Balestrat (AUS), 6-3, 6-2, 7-6. WELLINGTON (AFP) — Jeremy Bates, of Britain, seeded No. 7, overcame an early setback against John Rose, of the United States, to reach the last eight of the New Zealand Open yesterday as rain forced the tournament indoors.

Rose went into a 4-0 lead in the first set before Bates got his act together. Bates recovered to 4-4, lost the tie-break 7-4 but fought back to win the quarter-final place 6-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Bates will meet the second seed New Zealander, Kelly Evernden, in the quarter-finals. Evernden having defeated Omar Camporese, of Italy, 6-3, 7-6.

MENNO Oosting, of the Netherlands, beat the third seed, John Flavelly, of Australia, 6-3, 7-6 in one of the surprises of the tournament. Oosting next plays Ramesh Krishnan.

SECOND ROUND: R. Krishnan (IND) vs. T. Nijssen (NED), 6-4, 6-2, 6-0. (NED) vs. J. Flavelly (AUS), 6-3, 7-6, 7-6. J. Bates (GB) vs. J. Rose (USA), 6-7, 6-2, 6-2.

BASKETBALL

Kingston on guard as Irish returns

By Nicholas Harting

The fact that Manchester United have failed to qualify for a defence of their title should detract little from the Tournament of Champions, which begins at Leicester tonight. The appearance of three of the English League's other top four clubs is enticing enough.

What makes the event doubly appealing is the certain return of Colin Irish for Portsmouth in the second semi-final against the leaders, Fulham Kingston.

A chipped hand bone has made Irish a galvanic force, standing for all but nine minutes since his injury on November 29 in the Prudential National Cup semi-final. His single contribution since then was in last month's final against Kingston.

With only a half-life, Portsmouth did well to hold Kingston to a six-point winning margin. Had he been anything like himself there is no saying what the underdogs might have achieved. They get their chance tonight not only to avenge that defeat but their 17-point league reverse three weeks previously.

"I'm coming along okay," Irish said. "We have a few things to settle with Kingston and whoever is out there I'm sure will be able to do the job."

The mere presence of their fiery England forward should be enough to galvanize Portsmouth, whose title defence has not suffered without him although Dan Lloyd, their coach, concedes that his "big guys" have not been at their best.

If that second semi-final seems slightly unbalanced, there should be no question about the outcome of the first. Murray Livingston overwhelmed BCF London by 72 points in the league in September and although the league's bottom team have since changed their name — to Quaxex Crystal Palace — and gained their first win, there seems no reason to suppose they can produce a shock result.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Roses match adorns season

Rugby by Michael Stevenson

The county season, drawing to a close before the divisional matches, stages one of its most attractive contests when Lancashire entertain Yorkshire in the 18-group Roses Match at Kersal tomorrow. Yorkshire will kick off as firm favourites but have not played quite as well in their other matches as they should have done.

The England selectors may watch the Lancashire back row (Stumps, Sinclair and J. J. Lee) with special interest and in the Yorkshire side Bingham and Maynard, the centres, Booth as scrum-half and the blindside flanker, Adams, if he is recovered from injury.

Reid and Lancaster in the Cumbrian pack and their experienced Slater have been outstanding and in the unbeaten

Durham side the props, Dave Curry and Nick Young, may press their claims slightly ahead of several talented colleagues. Durham have beaten Cambridgeshire 13-0, Northumberland 13-0 and Lancashire in midweek 20-15. They also play their final match tomorrow against Cheshire at King's School, Chester.

The best outside half that I have seen in the North is Elliott, of Yorkshire, though he has not managed to convince the county selectors that this view is correct.

Wales entertain Scotland at Swansea on Monday. Fielding four of the side that beat them comfortably (22-6) at Murrayfield last year. It is the twentieth meeting between the sides since 1967, with Wales

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sorenson's ban keeps title race in balance

By Keith Macklin

Despite the seven-point lead presently being enjoyed by Widnes, the first division table is still wide open, with New Year holiday games capable of tilting the balance of power.

Widnes were struck a severe blow yesterday when the disciplinary committee's three-match ban on their captain, Kurt Sorenson, ended the big and aggressive front row forward out of Sunday's battle at Knowsley Road against a St Helens side swash with confidence following its remarkable comeback to win against Wigan last Sunday.

Although Widnes lost at St Helens in a John Player Special Trophy game earlier this season, their thirst for revenge may be handicapped by the loss of Sorenson.

Today, at Warrington, Wigan's troubled troops take the field against a Warrington team who lost narrowly at Widnes last week. Warrington are in second place, and are eager to narrow the gap with Widnes, which they believe is a false one. With Lydon out, suspended, and Potter, injured, Byrne and Guldart come into the Wigan squad.

In today's other holiday fixtures, Bradford Northern, who shipped out at home against Hull, will have difficulty bouncing back against a speedy and revived Castleford side, who demolished the home record of Hull Kingston Rovers last week.

Leeds expect another five-figure crowd for the local derby with Hunslet, and will also expect victory, although Hunslet surprised everybody by thrashing Leigh 48-10 last Sunday. Leigh are at home to Salford and may slip up again with Salford playing excellent rugby under the inspiration and leadership of Jack, their Australian international full back.

In the second division Wakefield Trinity and Featherstone Rovers renew rivalries in a match which will surely attract one of Belle Vue's biggest crowds of the season.

Incentives for youth to compete

The appetizing prospect of trips to exotic faraway places like Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands is proving a powerful incentive for young people to take up amateur rugby league football.

The scheme is the forerunner of similar projects throughout Britain designed to develop schoolboy, youth and open age amateur Rugby League, and the lure is made clear in the published plan. It states: "With major international tours planned at every level of the sport, there is a powerful incentive for young people to take up amateur rugby league football."

The cornerstone of the plan, and future area plans, is the appointment of full-time development officers with local council backing.

The local development officers go into schools and colleges to introduce the game to teachers and youngsters who will, in many cases, be getting to know the 15-a-side code for the first time.

Training and tuition and the formation of teams continues through to the open age leagues. The more progressive amateur clubs in Yorkshire and Humberside have followed the guidelines outlined in the regional plan by forming reserve teams and in some cases third teams, and by encouraging youngsters and schoolboys to come forward and join them.

St Bees earned the creditable record of 11 wins, 8 losses, 3 injuries were a problem and when they defeated BGS Lancaster (20-3) it was only the second occasion on which they had fielded a first team. Against Hull Kingston Rovers (25-18), they beat 25-18, finished with 14 players, using both replacements.

Taunton toured Portugal over the holidays, playing four matches, two of them against the Portuguese schools. They beat Catherham (38-4), Porto (40-0), Manikton Combe (10-8) and Lema (52-3). Taunton came from behind to beat Monkton Combe with a try run in from their own goal line.

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Wales entertain Scotland at Swansea on Monday. Fielding four of the side that beat them comfortably (22-6) at Murrayfield last year. It is the twentieth meeting between the sides since 1967, with Wales

term where it only lost twice with the high tops being a 3-1 win over Chigwell and a 4-1 defeat of Kimbolton.

In the under-19 Mitre trophy championship Northumberland, last year's winners, had an important victory over Cleveland, the only goal of the match being scored by Hawke two minutes from time.

The final selections for the first international matches take place early in January. The Victoria Shield programme starts with the game between Wales and England at Boston on February 20.

HOCKEY

East take the honours

By Joyce Whitehead

The East are the new women's territorial champions. They finished the third day of the Territorial Championship yesterday at Southampton in fine form. They beat West 1-0 and recorded three wins and a draw.

The match against West was not without incident. Tracey Wilcox (Suffolk) scored the vital goal in the 17th minute. Michelle Hall (Huntingdonshire) faced West's best effort on the goal-line and Sue Chandler (Kent) failed at a penalty stroke.

But, for all that, the East played creative hockey with team-work the key to their success. Had it not been for Julie Williams (Wiltshire) in the West

Keen contest for Pyne

CYCLING

By Peter Bryan

goal and Sue Brimble (Gloucestershire), who was a stalwart defender, the East's score could have been higher.

The South were also unbeaten but they started with three draws games and left it late to beat Midlands 1-0 in the last match yesterday to clinch second place. Sue Rammell (Middlesex) converted a penalty stroke for them to win and Denise Orford (Surrey) excelled herself in goal.

North, last year's winners, came out bottom this year.

Keen contest for Pyne

By Peter Bryan

Martin Pyne has the added incentive of trying to become the first winner of the season today in the CC Breckland 10-mile time-trial near Wymondham.

The 30-year-old Essex Western rider, Britain's 25-mile champion in 1981 and the winner of 34 trials in 1987, appears for the first time in the colours of his new club, Polytechnic-Air Canada, having resigned from the Breckland squad last month.

Pyne knows that he is in for a close battle this morning with Ian Cammish, Britain's best all-rounder for a record seventh time, among the 90 starters. Cammish recovered quickly

from surgery in mid-November and rode a superb victory in the Chesterfield Spire 10-mile and the Crest 25-mile races the weekend before Christmas.

Today's course is a new one taking in a stretch of the revised A11. Pyne believes it will provide a fast first half but, as the riders start for home into the likely south-westerly wind, speeds will fall.

He will be riding what he describes as "my new funny bike" which has a 17-inch frame, a 20-inch seat pin and a 24-inch front wheel and a 27-inch rear wheel and is valued at £2,500.

Villa's December sale ends with a healthy profit

By Dennis Shaw and Ian Ross

Aston Villa begin the new year with a transfer surplus of £955,000 from 20 transactions after two sets of negotiations were completed by Graham Taylor, the manager, yesterday.

The sale of Mark Walters to Rangers for £575,000 and Simon Stainrod to Stoke for £85,000 has provided Taylor with the funds to strengthen an already-healthy promotion challenge.

"Not all of the surplus is available to me for signings, because the club has other commitments," Taylor said. "But I do now have transfer cash to spend."

Taylor, whose team is in third place in the second division, has players in mind, and has already made inquiries about them. It seems that 1988 will not be very old before he adds to the nine players he has already purchased.

Since arriving at Villa Park from Watford he has sold 11 players for £1.9 million and bought nine for £945,000. Stoke will pay a further £15,000 as and when Stainrod makes a specified number of appearances.

Taylor is aware of the huge crowds he has to make before Villa can be regarded as one of the giants again. "It makes you realise when you deal with clubs like Everton and Rangers how far we have to go," he said. "At the moment we are one of the 'feeder' clubs

in terms of sending players to the top clubs. Hopefully the time will come fairly soon when we have to consider buying rather than selling at this level."

Taylor sent a farewell message to Walters with the warning that he must be big enough and brave enough to take on the challenge of playing in Glasgow.

"I don't know him well enough to say whether he can do for Rangers what John Barnes is doing for Liverpool. If he can, the world will be his oyster," Taylor said.

As Walters completed his



He belongs to Glasgow: Walters in his new working suit yesterday

move. Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, was left to reflect on the transfer that never was. Harvey was convinced that he had done enough to attract the former England Under-21 international to Goodison Park during several hours of negotiations on Wednesday.

An agreement seemed imminent until Walters announced his intention to talk with Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager.

Several hours later Harvey learned, to his immense disappointment, that the man he had pencilled in as a key figure in his side's faltering title defence had decided to continue his pursuit of full England international status north of the border.

Mick Mills, the Stoke manager, believes he has picked up a bargain in Stainrod. Despite handing over his highest-ever transfer fee, Mills is confident that the forward, aged 28, will be worth every penny.

"It is not so long ago that Terry Venables was trying to take Simon to Barcelona," Mills said. "He is an exciting type of player who has an impressive one-in-three scoring record." Stainrod will make his debut against Ipswich today.

Birmingham City revealed yesterday that they recently rejected a £350,000 offer from Glasgow Rangers for the left back Julian Dicks, aged 19.

Luton in bid for Thomas' return

Tottenham Hotspur and Luton are again involved in a dispute over the transfer fee of Mitchell Thomas, the former England under-21 left back. Some 18 months ago, Luton were furious when a League tribunal awarded them £250,000 - they had asked for twice that - when the player moved to north London to join David Pleat, who had been appointed manager of Tottenham after leaving Kenilworth Road.

Now Terry Venables, the present Tottenham manager, is prepared to sell Thomas for £300,000. Luton have declared an interest - but are prepared to pay only what they received for him.

"We are definitely interested in bringing Mitchell back," Bill Tomlin, the Luton secretary said yesterday. "But we are not interested at the price Tottenham are quoting."

Port Vale signed Gary Ford, aged 27, the Leicester City winger, on a month's loan yesterday. The third division strugglers rushed the papers to the Football Association's headquarters in time for him to make his debut at Rotham today. The clubs have agreed a fee of £40,000 and Ford, who joined Leicester from York in the summer, is expected to make the move permanent before the loan expires.

Stuart Ripley, the Middlesbrough winger, will miss two matches, against his club's promotion rivals, Millwall and Crystal Palace, after being sent off for fighting with Glyn Snodin at Leeds on Monday. He was also fined by the club.



Winning stroke: Ginny Humphrey-Davies on her way to victory in the British covered court junior championships at Queen's Club yesterday (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Petchey is too strong for Draper

The No. 1 seed, Mark Petchey, generally considered the best prospect in British tennis for some years, was in buoyant form at the Prudential British junior covered court championships at Queen's Club, London, yesterday.

Petchey, aged 17, of Essex, romped into the last four of the boys' singles by beating David Draper, of Northampton, 6-3, 6-3 in 72 minutes.

Draper, aged 15, hit some fine backhand winners but was generally outplayed.

Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton, qualified to meet Petchey in today's semi-finals by beating Uli Ngnang, of Norwich, 6-3, 6-4.

In the girls' singles, Nina Topper, aged 17, of Yorkshire, pulled off an upset by beating the No. 2 seed, Alison Hill, of Devon, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Exhibition players court record fines

From Barry Wood, Brisbane

Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert both face the prospect of being fined a record US\$20,000 (£10,800) by the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) as a result of their decision to play an exhibition match to mark the opening of a new resort on Australia's Gold Coast next week, instead of competing in the official New South Wales Open in Sydney.

Steffi Graf and Hana Mandlikova - who receives her Australian citizenship today - are also being sought.

Strict rules have recently been introduced in an effort to curb the effect of a growing number of exhibitions. It is ironic that these rules are being broken by the association's president (Evert) and a past president (Navratilova).

However, there is more to their decision than meets the eye. The Sydney tournament will be played on grass, although the Australian Open, which takes place the following week, is now to be played on Rebound Ace, the surface chosen for the new National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Few players have had the opportunity to play on the new surface, but Evert and Navratilova will be able to do so at the exhibition site.

The situation of a warm-up tournament for a Grand Slam event being played on a completely different surface is unprecedented, and follows Sydney's decision not to tear up their grass and replace it with a new surface.

Ignoring the fact that they would have undoubtedly been given the opportunity to practice in Melbourne had they so wished, Pam Shriver, the WITA vice-president, supported Evert's and Navratilova's rebellious attitude.

"I can see that it looks lousy but they have put so much into the game and it is a chance for them to make some money and play on the surface," Miss Shriver, who will be the top seed in Sydney, said.

"I am sure the tournament would have got either Martina or Chris if they had changed the surface, but financially it is hard for them to make a decision like that."

Change of role for Maguire

By Clive White

Gavin Maguire, the player at the centre of a threat of legal action by Danny Thomas, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, was yesterday given the opportunity to build a new career for himself as successor to Terry Fenwick in Queen's Park Rangers' crucial sweeper role.

Maguire, aged 20, was promoted to the position in the Rangers' team to play Southampton at Loftus Road today following Fenwick's departure to Tottenham where the England defender will become a team colleague of Thomas until Thomas's enforced retirement in the summer. The former England under-21 full back suffered serious knee ligament damage following a tackle by Maguire in a match 10 months ago.

Thomas, who reluctantly conceded that his career was over on Wednesday at the age of 26, is considering taking legal action against Maguire and Rangers for loss of earning power.

The Professional Footballers' Association will give advice to both players. Gordon Taylor, the secretary, expressed the hope that if such action is undertaken it will be settled out of court as in previous disputes, though he admitted that this was the first

time that a top class player's career had been ended by an alleged dangerous tackle.

Maguire, who was booked for the tackle on Thomas, is a former Middlesex Schoolboys' stand-off half. Smith said yesterday: "He has the potential to be a very good player." McDonald succeeds Fenwick as captain.

Meanwhile Fenwick is poised to take up a less accustomed position in Tottenham Hotspur's midfield against Watford at White Hart Lane this morning. It was expected that Fenwick would join forces with Fairclough in the centre of defence where he has won 19

caps for England, but clearly Terry Venables, the manager, feels that Tottenham's more urgent need is for more bite in midfield.

Curiously, one of the reasons Fenwick rejected Arsenal was because they could not guarantee him a place in the back four. Mabbott will resume in the centre of defence if he is passed fit after suffering a nasty head injury at Derby 12 days ago.

Someone else's omission from central defence could have dire consequences for Coventry City, who learned yesterday that Peake, their best defender, would be unfit to face Liverpool because of a foot injury.

No move for Atkinson

Ron Atkinson has ended fears that he may leave West Bromwich Albion to accept a lucrative job in Spain as coach of Zaragoza (Dennis Shaw writes).

The former Manchester United manager is negotiating a two-year contract to stay at The Hawthorns and lead their campaign to avoid relegation to the third division.

"When I came here I never intended to mess about with the job," he said last night. "I have had discussions with the chairman with a view to accepting a two-year deal."

Atkinson introduces a new central defender, Stacey North, signed from Luton for £100,000, at Swindon today and has further new players in mind.

"I did not make many decisions when I first came here because I wanted to give the existing staff time to prove themselves," he added. "Now I intend to get things done in the new year. First priority is to get away from relegation danger and then to build a team capable of returning to the first division. There is no question of my leaving."

Nottingham Forest are not far behind the bookies in their desire to see Liverpool slip up, though in their case it would require several slip-ups for them to bridge that 10-point gap. At least it is not affecting their finances, indeed today they expect a full house of 35,000 at the City Ground to watch their match with Newcastle United.

The name Liverpool is never mentioned. "We need to maintain our steady progress for a few more weeks before we can even start to think about whether we can catch Liverpool or not," Brian Clough, the manager, said.

Bond pulls out of America's Cup

By Barry Pickthall

Alan Bond announced in Perth yesterday that he will not be challenging for the next America's Cup.

The Australian millionaire, who became the first to break the New York Yacht Club's 132-year hold on the trophy with the "wing keeled wonder" Australia II in 1983, halted production on his 90th super-maxi after the San Diego Yacht Club, the holders, maintained its refusal to entertain multiple challenges for this year's event.

John Longley, spokesman for the Bond challenge, issued through the Royal Perth Yacht Club, said that the decision not to proceed was particularly sad, especially after they had competed in the five previous events.

The question now remains whether Bond, who says that preliminary design and development for his challenger has already cost \$1m,

will now carry out his threat to sue the Californian club for damages.

The Australian's decision also isolates Peter de Savary, who had plans to press the case for multiple challengers at a meeting with San Diego officials later this month. He too has expressed a willingness to sue if Blue Arrow are prevented from competing against the one legitimate challenger, New Zealand, for the right to compete for the Cup.

Bond, however, made plain his feelings just before Christmas when he said in a statement: "I have never experienced such intransigence and incompetence. The San Diego Yacht Club would not be holding the Cup if we hadn't won it... and San Diego is now saying it does not want us to compete in 1988."

More yachting, page 24

Wigan soften ban on Lydon

By Keith Macklin

Two outstanding international players will miss this weekend's vital holiday derby games as a result of suspensions imposed by the Rugby League disciplinary committee in Leeds yesterday.

Joe Lydon, Wigan's Great Britain utility back, misses today's match at Warrington, following a four-match suspension, while Widdows will be without their inspiring New

Zealand international, and captain, Kurt Sorenson, for the visit to St Helens on Sunday.

It had been feared that Lydon would be unavailable for the France v Great Britain international at Avignon on January 24 as a result of his ban but Wigan have re-arranged a postponed fixture at Halifax for Tuesday, and Lydon will have completed

four matches in time to play, if selected, in the international.

David Stephenson, the Wigan and Great Britain centre, is expected to be placed on the transfer list by the club at a fee of around £100,000, after a pay dispute. Widdows and Leeds have already expressed an interest in signing Stephenson if he is listed.

Preview, page 24

Games bar on official

A high-ranking American official, due to supervise at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, has been barred from the Games by the United States Olympic Committee after being linked to a blood-doping incident last year.

Jim Page, appointed technical delegate in charge of the Games' Nordic combined event, was one of two officials who admitted to a US Ski Association inquiry last week that they allowed an American, Kerry Lynch, to engage in the banned practice of blood doping at last February's world Nordic ski championships in Oberstdorf, West Germany.

Rich reward

Sue Rich, aged 31, the Cambridge University coach, has been appointed the Lawn Tennis Association's coaching and development officer for the East region.



Edmonds: approached

Phil Edmonds, the former Middlesex and England spin bowler who retired from first-class cricket at the end of last summer, is considering an approach to play Minor Counties cricket for Shropshire next season.

Top catch

Maninder Singh, the Indian left-arm spinner, has signed as professional for Blackpool Cricket Club to play in the Northern League next season.

Cram doubt

Steve Cram could be forced to pull out of the Northern Counties cross-country championships at Chester-le-Street tomorrow week after sustaining a calf muscle injury at Gateshead on Monday.

On the mend

Chris Rudd, the Hull Kingston Rovers hooker who fractured his skull in a road accident on Monday, has been allowed home from hospital and is reported to be making a rapid recovery.

No deal

Leigh rugby league club have rejected a third bid by Oldham for their scrum half, Mike Ford.

In demand

Kent County Cricket club announced yesterday they will be approaching Dermot Reeve, the Sussex all-rounder whose contract with the club has expired, with an offer to join them next season.

Davies restores Llanelli's pride

By Gerald Davies

Llanelli 27
Swansea 3

On the previous two occasions these clubs had met Llanelli had lost to Swansea, once by the hardly-believable margin of 34 points. But since Jonathan Davies's return from injury they have won nine of their last 10 games. As their confidence swells so their success continues, and they happily restored some local pride by winning by three tries, a goal and three penalties to a penalty.

Llanelli had the help of the wind in the first half, but could turn around with only two penalties from Jonathan Davies to show for their efforts after an intense and energetic opening spell. Although the referee had to have words with Phil Davies and Paul Moriarty, it hardly had a bearing on the style of the match. It was attack and counter-attack, with the home team taking most of the initiative. Within it there was the joy of seeing two sets of half-backs superbly playing their trade - Jones, in particular, is a technical expert at his craft.

That Swansea, less adventurous, managed to limit the home side's score, was due in major part to the domination of the line-out by the Moriarty brothers and, especially, Maurice Colclough. Yet, for all this, you felt they were playing the waiting game, waiting for the wind. It was a mistake.

Llanelli were in no mood to tolerate such defensive measures themselves in the second half as they surged ever onwards.

The vital score, in the 13th minute, was a wonderful effort. Davies's high up-and-under from a penalty set the position for a scrum in the Swansea half. The stand-off half, in midfield, sent the three-quarters to the left-hand side, leaving himself and Evans in the wide spaces on the right. Davies ran that way and gave the pass to Evans, who, with a sprint, a side-step and a change of pace cleared his way to the line for the try.

A Davies penalty was followed by a try by Carwyn Davies after Griffiths's long break on the narrow side of the mail. Then Evans again latched on to a hopelessly misdirected kick from Davies to race diagonally for 50 metres for a try, and Lewis charged over for the final score, which Jonathan Davies converted to bring his total for the season to 109 points. Wyatt kicked one of his three penalty attempts for Swansea.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Three Evans (2), C Davies, Lewis; Conversion: J Davies. Swansea: J Davies (3), Swansea: Penalties: Wyatt.

LLANELLI: S Bowling, I Evans, N Davies, S Davies, C Davies, J Davies, J Griffiths, L Roberts, D Ford, A Richmond, E Lewis, P May, R Corrie, M Parris, P Davies.

SWANSEA: M Wyatt, M Tiley, S Parry (capt), A Williams, T Michael, R Roberts, J Clement, R Jones, K Colclough, P Hetherington, D Young, P Moriarty, M Colclough, R Moriarty, M Davies, J Thomas.

Referee: K Parry (Port Talbot).

END COLUMN

A ball of money to kick around

By Geoffrey Webster

There is a joke doing the rounds of Glasgow public houses concerning the phenomenal spending power of Rangers Football Club. Question: What is the most expensive team in Scotland? Answer: Rangers. Question: What's the second most expensive team? Answer: Rangers Reserves.

While that may not be strictly true, there is no doubt that the footballing talent they can leave on the bench could walk into most British first teams.

The latest addition is Mark Walters, the New Year's Eve signing from Aston Villa. The fee - £500,000. He will be the first black player in the premier division and he can be a tricky, thrilling player, but his arrival has not generated any real sense of excitement. He is, after all, just the latest Englishman to travel north.

But surely the question that clubs around the country, especially Everton, who thought Walters was Merseyside-bound, must be asking is: Why Rangers? To describe Rangers as wealthy is like saying the Duke of Westminster owns a bit of property. No club in Britain and only few in Europe can match their money.

Crowds at their home matches this season are averaging almost 40,000. They can take in £160,000, and even more, for a European tie.

A constant source of income to them has been Rangers Pools. Most clubs have a pool but Rangers' is destined to become the biggest in the world. The brain behind it was David Hope who, after selling out his chain of television and radio shops, devoted his life to the Rangers Pools and Social Club.

He made it the best in the world and his reward was the shortest chairmanship of Rangers on record - just 17 minutes. The boardroom issue



Souness: the big bait

of his wife (long since dead at the time) having been a Catholic was enough to see him step down and gradually disappear from the scene.

In the early 1980s a staggering £11 million was spent on building a super stadium which seats 36,000 of its 44,500 capacity. It has been suggested that Rangers have an eye on staging international matches as the renovation work at Hampden Park staggers on through the Eighties.

The pools have contributed tens of thousands of pounds a week into the Rangers coffers but for so long the money could not buy success. All that was missing was a winning team. During the 60s and early 70s the then chairman, John Lawrence, had to watch as Celtic swept all before them.

By the 80s his grandson, Lawrence Marshall, was the power behind the throne, albeit from the rather strange setting of Nevada, where he had business interests. He hand-picked one of the Lawrence Organization's most able men - David Hobbins.

After surveying the scene at Ibrox, he knew that there was money to spend and his first move was to bring in Graeme Souness as player-manager.

The rest is history - so far. With Souness as the bait, other big names were soon to follow.

The millions in the bank are being used to buy and sell. Robert Fleck, signed for next to nothing, was sold to Norwich for £500,000, the same amount that Walters came north for. As well as buying big, Rangers are able to sell big. And the Ibrox dream is not yet complete.

Walters will discover at Parkhead tomorrow what signing for Rangers means. The clash with Celtic will bring out the usual religious bigotry.

A frequent chant at Old Firm matches from the Rangers' fans goes: "I'd rather be a Darkie than a Tim (a Catholic)", a remark designed to offend Celtic's large Catholic following.

Now that Rangers have signed the premier division's first black player, that is one offering that will, it is hoped, disappear from the song-sheet.